



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Russian Foreign Ministry Vague on Submarine Sales to Iran

Although he declined comment on reports that Russia is going to sell submarines to Iran, Foreign Minister Kozyrev acknowledged that "Russia needs to maintain contacts with Iran and certain other countries" and intends to "sell certain weapons to foreign countries," ITAR-TASS reports. A Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations official stated in another ITAR-TASS report that in settlements between Russia and Iran for the deliveries of "special equipment, armaments, and hardware, the question of selling Russian diesel submarines to Tehran does not stand on the agenda."

But a BALTFAX report, quoting sources "close to the Latvian Defense Ministry," said an "Iranian submarine bought from Russia had left Riga harbor" a few days ago and "set sail for the shores of the Persian Gulf." Quoting unofficial information, the report says Russia sold at least two submarines to Iran.

Armenian, Azerbaijani Defense Ministers Cautious on Cease-Fire Accord

Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan, commenting on the cease-fire agreement reached in Sochi with the Azerbaijani and Russian defense ministers, described it as "not a political but a military agreement," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports. "It will give an opportunity for political aspects of the problem to be discussed at the level of the three presidents."

The deputy press secretary of the Armenian president, speaking to INTERFAX, said that, regardless of the agreement, "in reality, it would only be possible to realize the cease-fire agreement in Nagorno-Karabakh...provided the defense ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as the commander of the self defense forces in Nagorno-Karabakh, simultaneously issue an order to stop all hostilities."

Azerbaijani Defense Minister Gaziyeu, speaking after the negotiations to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, said that "decisionmaking was the prerogative of the military. 'I believe that today an accord between the military really is more effective.'" Commenting on Russia's role in this process, he noted: "Since Russia has assumed a mediation role—and for Russia this is not so much a military as a political decision—we are prepared to grant it the role of the 'referee' who shows the yellow and red cards."

Supreme Soviet Approves Laws With Yeltsin Amendments

Yesterday the Supreme Soviet "reached a compromise [on the defense bill] after repeated voting" and agreed to Yeltsin's proposal, with the proviso that it be introduced "after parliament approves a new Russian constitution," reports ITAR-TASS. The essence of Yeltsin's amendments was that the president should make appointments to the posts of defense minister, his deputies, the chief of the general staff, and other high-ranking Army officials without the legislature's consent. Today the parliament "endorsed a law on the monetary system in the Russian Federation," which had been returned to the parliament by President Yeltsin. The law now "obliges the Central Bank of Russia not to organize production of banknotes and coins, but to plan the volume of production, transportation and storage, [and] to set up reserve funds." Deputies also passed a law "on making changes and amendments into the labor code." However, they rejected the president's proposal "to bar trade unions from disposing of the social insurance fund, financed from the state budget, in conditions of transition to a market economy."

Shaposhnikov, Canadian Envoy Discuss Peacekeeping

PM2209155192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 19 Sep 92 p 2

[ITAR-TASS report: "Meeting Held"]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Sep—Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, has received Michael Bell, Canadian ambassador to the Russian Federation, at the latter's request. The CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command Public Information Center said that during the conversation they discussed problems pertaining to the use of peacekeeping forces in various regions of the world. The sides noted the importance of exchanging experience of using such forces in order to stabilize the situation in areas of local conflict.

Foreign Investments in CIS Reportedly Declining

AU2409093392 Vienna DIE PRESSE
in German 24 Sep 92 p 18

[Erich Hoorn report: "Foreign Investments in CIS Declining"]

[Text] Vienna—In view of the uncertain economic and political situation and the constant changes in the laws, foreign investments in the CIS are declining. While in 1989, during the time of euphoria after the opening up in the course of perestroika, they amounted to \$650 million, they declined to \$500 million in 1990 and to \$250 million last year. These figures refer only to the capital paid into joint ventures.

As Walter Boltz, head of AWT Consulting in Vienna, said in an interview with DIE PRESSE, total foreign investments in the CIS currently amount to \$1.6 billion, which is about 0.1 percent of the gross national product. About 0.5 billion schillings have been invested by Austria.

Of the 20,000 registered joint ventures in the CIS, only about 2,000 are really working—150 with Austrian participation—because most joint ventures have been formally established for tax reasons or for the sole purpose of opening a foreign currency account. The three Baltic states are more successful: Boltz estimates the number of working joint ventures there at about 400.

Ernest Obminski, deputy director general of UNIDO [United Nations Development Organization] in Vienna, says, however, that it is practical to invest in the CIS despite the various problems, because one could establish a stronghold in this market for the future. Unfortunately, in the CIS they do not yet know how to make an offer to a Western company.

150 Projects Presented in Vienna

In any case, companies in the CIS are now showing interest in foreign investments: So far 80 investment projects have been prepared for the conference on trade and investments in the former USSR, which is scheduled to be held in Vienna from 8 to 10 November. At the event, which is organized by AWT together with UNIDO, the organizers want to present about 150 investment offers to the expected 300 participants.

UNIDO wants to offer its services for these projects, for instance to assess the companies. Obminski stresses that Russia urgently needs foreign investments. Good opportunities for getting into business are offered, in particular, by privatization, which is to start now. Now one can also buy those premises where the joint venture has been established.

Intervision Body Meets; Future Cooperation Seen

LD2409231092 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya
Ostankino Television First Program Network
in Russian 1700 GMT 24 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The final 76th session of the Intervision Council has ended its work in Moscow. A number of decisions and recommendations were made on specific issues concerning the cessation of this international organization's activities, which is due to take place before the end of the year, and the start of cooperation between European television and radio companies within the framework of a single broadcasting union—Eurovision.

The participants in the session demonstrated great interest in the idea of setting up an interstate company for all Commonwealth member states on the basis of the Russian Ostankino television company.

They expressed readiness for cooperation in preserving a common information space and developing international exchanges of television and radio information.

Muslim States Rehearsing 'Offensive' Against West

PM2209095592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 15 Sep 92 First Edition p 7

["Yugoslav Crisis" article by Aleksey Bausin: "Minor Jihad in the Center of Europe"]

[Excerpts] Islam is demonstrating how dynamic it is. It appears that the teaching of the prophet Muhammad is seeking to spread its religious and, perhaps, political influence further and further afield. And the conflict in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina has given the devotees of the Koran the opportunity to test their strength in Europe. [passage omitted]

No matter how the conflict in the former Yugoslavia ends, it has confirmed once again that new and increas

ingly strident forces are abroad in a world that is ridding itself of superpower confrontation.. In this case, we are talking about the countries of Islam. Whereas before, the future of the Near and Middle East was decided mainly in London, Paris, and Washington, now Tehran and Ankara are endeavoring to play an increasing role in the

formation of the so-called "new world order." And, accordingly, to have a special place in that "order."

So perhaps the Near East states' participation in the Yugoslav war is merely a rehearsal for the major offensive they are going to wage against the West?

Mediator Welcomes Armenia-Azerbaijan Cease-Fire*OW2309232992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1913 GMT 23 Sep 92*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Russian mediation committee on the peaceful settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh Vladimir Kazimirov positively evaluated the cease-fire agreement signed in Sochi by Armenian and Azerbaijani defense ministers. The agreement, published Wednesday [23 September], stipulates a cease-fire at midnight on September 25 and the declaration of a two month moratorium on all military activities on all of Armenia's and Azerbaijan's borders and in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The Russian diplomat believes they have made "a serious attempt to break the vicious circle" in which the cease-fire was dependent upon the obligatory presence of international observers, but international observers, in accordance with the CSCE and UN requirements, could be present in the conflict region only on condition of a stable cease-fire. Kazimirov reported that not long before the signing of the Sochi agreement the opposing parties announced that their military commands had succeeded in establishing control over all armed formations in the fighting zone.

He pointed out that in such lengthy military conflicts as in Nagorno-Karabakh, independent "third forces" almost always emerge which, figuratively speaking, cannot live without war.

Cease-Fire Accord Signed*LD2309221992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya
Ostankino Television First Program Network
in Russian 1900 GMT 23 Sep 92*

[From "The Guns Will Fall Silent at Midnight" program]

[Text] The Transcaucasus still does not know that peace will come to the area during the night of 25-26 September, or, to be more precise, that it ought to come, if those under arms find enough reason, goodness, and love for their peoples. Pavel Grachev and Viktor Barannikov, members of the Russian Security Council, with the participation of Tengiz Kitovani, Georgia's defense minister, organized the talks and guaranteed the cease-fire agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which is of vital importance to everyone. The agreement has been signed by Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan and Azerbaijan Defense Minister Rakhim Kaziyeu. It ought to come into force during the night of 25-26 September.

[Begin Grachev recording] Esteemed friends, I call you friends, because you really are friends as far as we are concerned and we have gathered here at our initiative and at the initiative of our presidents, which is the same thing, because I know the view of the president of Azerbaijan, the president of Armenia, the president, the premier of Georgia. Highfalutin though it may sound, a historic occasion has come about when we can and will

have a frank chat and map out a number of measures to halt the bloodshed, in particular in Nagorno-Karabakh. [end recording]

The work to prepare the document was intense and dramatic. The early stages of the work were connected with the toil of analysts of both presidents. Here is the concluding stage—each word is checked, for, after all, human lives are at stake.

[Begin recording] [Barannikov] We have now defined two aspects. In the first place, both sides fully, 100 percent agree to cease fire. We also determine the date as 0000 on 25 September. So, on the night of 25-26 September, well, it will be 0000 on the 26th, yes, that is what we get.

[Grachev] Well, to put it more briefly, at 2400 on 25th, the firing ceases along the entire front line. We declare a moratorium on all kinds of military operations for 150 days—that is to say, in the course of three months [voice in background says "five"]—five months we will withdraw all the troops, 150 days. Once this period of 150 days has elapsed, there will be no troops in the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. We will position observers—Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belarus have agreed—throughout the whole territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and the rayons that border on it. We will introduce the CIS peacemaking disengagement forces. What do you think? What are your proposals?

[Kaziyeu] In the first place, Nagorno-Karabakh, let the observers be there. But I am not for introducing peacemaking forces there. What is the need for them?

[Grachev] That is, your view is that [words indistinct] observers, is that not right?

[Kaziyeu] Yes, observers, of course. [video shows signing of agreement, Sarkisyan and Kaziyeu shaking hands]

[Grachev] All in all, let everyone read it and, with your agreement, we will sign it. That is my proposal. Are there any other proposals? No. Let us read.

[Barannikov] Article by article, right? [indistinct replies] [end recording]

So, the agreement has been signed. The guns ought to fall silent at midnight on the 25th.

Ukraine, Belarus on Visa-Free Ties With Latvia*AU2409130692 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 24 Sep 92*

[Text] The Governments of Ukraine and Belarus have turned to the Government of Latvia with a proposal to introduce a regime in which citizens of their countries may exchange visits without the need to obtain visas. The parliament of Latvia will pass a decision on this question this fall.

It is worth mentioning that, as of 1 July, Estonia demands entry visas from CIS residents.

Lithuania is planning to do the same in the near future.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 24 Sep

LD2409054792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0524 GMT 24 Sep 92

[“Press Review”—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 24 ITAR-TASS—The press gives prominent display to materials dealing with the session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, which is currently held in Moscow.

A selection of brief commentaries in the newspaper NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA is titled “The Parliament Gave Deferment to Gaydar, the Opposition Began the Lengthy Siege of the President”. It is the first time that the parliamentary opposition to Yeltsin preferred a long and exhausting struggle to the “frontal attack” on the government, the newspaper writes. It points out that “the president, the main character in the new scene of the power crisis, has not yet appeared at the session.” Referring to the president’s assistants, the newspaper names two dates of his possible speech at the session—September 28 and October 7.

“So far, the government has managed to hold ground,” the trade union newspaper TRUD writes on this theme. “However, it seems that having begun the regular session with such a vigorous offensive on executive authority, the parliament put the president in a position where he also needs to take some actions—either to defend the course chosen by him or realign it.” The newspaper observes that “Yeltsin’s figure was not mentioned virtually in any of the speeches.”

“We have solved military issues and tried to clear the way to politicians,” Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said in an interview with the Army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA commenting on talks between the Azerbaijani and Armenian defence ministers in Sochi to settle the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. Grachev attended the talks together with Russian Security Minister Viktor Barannikov and Georgian Defence Minister Tengiz Kitovani. Grachev tells about some additional details of the talks as a result of which an agreement was reached to cease fire in the conflict-torn area from 24:00 on September 25.

“The transparency of the Tajik-Afghan border poses a threat to all CIS member-countries,” KRASNAYA ZVEZDA believes. Emphasising the danger of the situation because of the smuggling of weapons into the republic from neighbouring Afghanistan, the newspaper cites the following figures to support its conclusion: 265 border violators were detained on the section of the Pyandzh border unit, Tajikistan, and 92 automatic weapons, 36 pistols, seven grenade launchers, 17 machine-guns, 260 grenades and tens of thousands ammunition were seized over five months by September 22.

Vladislav Repin, an academician of the Russian Academy of Technical Sciences, strongly objected in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA against theories about the admissibility and even desirability for Russia to change qualitatively the concept of detainment and, correspondingly, the composition of nuclear missile forces, which have appeared lately.

According to Repin, “at point is the proposal to remove declaratively and practically from Russia’s defence policy the concept of a launch-through-attack strike which is dealt once a missile attack on it is launched, leaving as the only possible variant of retribution a retaliatory strike after the enemy’s missiles hit and the damage wrought estimated.”

The scientist believes the adoption of the concept of an exclusively retaliatory strike is tantamount in terms of military consequences to the adoption of the concept of the unilateral nuclear missile disarmament and in terms of economic consequences is the worst variant for implementing this concept.

Prior to 1988, Repin was the chief architect of the programme to build nuclear attack early warning and space monitoring systems.

In the rubrick Figures and Facts, SOVetskaya Rossiya cites figures, without referring to sources, that 904,259 Russian citizens from among those who lost their jobs have undergone registration in employment services by September 1, 1992 and 294,226 people out of them have officially acquired the status of an unemployed person. Only 174,125 people from among the officially recognised unemployed receive unemployment benefits, the newspaper contends.

The blast-off of the Soyuz booster rocket from the Plesetsk spaceport on November 16, 1992 will signal the beginning of the implementation of the new joint Russian-American project, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes. The rocket will put into orbit the Columbus star satellite, from which a half-tonne descending module will be jettisoned in five days and land in the ocean not far from the U.S. city of Seattle. The project will be fully paid by the Russian side—the fund of social inventions, the Garant firm, the St. Petersburg bank and other participants.

For 25 Sep

LD2509090792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0814 GMT 25 Sep 92

[“Press Review”—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 25 ITAR-TASS—Moscow newspapers highlight today the regular session of the Russian parliament, the agreement on a ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh, reached by Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the situation in Tajikistan and the northern Caucasus.

On the third day of the session of the Russian parliament the legislators discussed mostly the draft laws that were

returned by the president to the parliament to be discussed once again. By returning to parliament about a dozen draft laws, Yeltsin seemed to be hinting that "they should get down to discharging their own duties, rather than criticising the government", PRAVDA writes. Describing the discussion in parliament of the president's amendments to the draft law on defence, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes points to the unanimity of the parliamentary groups. The parliament actually approved only one amendment, "thus serving notice that it intends not only to preserve all-round control over the Armed Forces and military development in the country, but also to expand and deepen it."

The agreement on a ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh reached on September 19 by the Azeri and Armenian foreign ministers with the mediation of their Russian counterpart, which is described by newspapers as sensational, became possible mostly because of the active peace-making role of the Russian political and military leadership, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes. In the opinion of the newspaper, the situation at the Nagorno-Karabakh front, where "none of the warring sides can reach its targets by military means", was also an important factor. "The impression is that both Baku and Yerevan are coming to realise that the war is consuming all the resources of the two republics. In this respect the Sochi agreement is a chance for salvation for them."

"The newspaper points to the need for working out an effective mechanism of control over the observance of a ceasefire, and for using peace-keeping forces in this process. According to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, the Azeri and Armenian defence ministers, Rakhim Gaziyeu and Vazgen Sarkisyan, support such measures.

Sarkisyan gave an interview to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, in which he said that Armenia was ready to agree to Russia's role of a judge in the settlement of the conflict. He stressed that only a military agreement was reached in Sochi, which would enable the Armenian, Azeri and Russian presidents "to discuss political aspects of the problem."

"The Azeri Government is attaching priority importance to strengthening relations with Russia," Azeri First Deputy Prime Minister A. Abbasov said in an interview with PRAVDA. According to Abbasov, a Russian-Azeri draft agreement on economic cooperation is ready for signing.

TRUD and KRASNAYA ZVEZDA write with concern that the fulfilment of resolutions on disarming warring groups in Tajikistan has actually been disrupted. According to the newspapers, the fact that the Tajik leadership does not have proper military means to secure the fulfilment of its resolutions is one of the reasons for it, aside from the unwillingness of the warring groups to lay down arms. Rakhman Nabiyeu, who was removed recently from the post of the Tajik president, said in a PRAVDA interview that there are no authorities whatsoever in the republic, that a civil war is going on there and that "the country is in mortal danger". He is pinning hope for the establishment of peace on the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The situation in Kabardino-Balkaria and the Northern Caucasus in general became explosive after the Russian prosecutor's office arrested Musa Shanibov, chairman of the Confederation of Highland Nations, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA and NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA write. According to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, chairman of the Congress of the Kabardinian People Yuriy Kalmykov accused Moscow of having no clear nationalities policy and said the measures against Shanibov, inspired by the centre, "will only set the population of the North Caucasian republics against the federal treaty."

Aleksandr Vladislavlev, first vice president of the union of industrialists and entrepreneurs, has contributed an article to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, in which he writes about the need for working out a clear concept of the Russian reform. It should define clearly the political choice of the country, the public values and guidelines, and should become the basis of civil accord and consolidation of society, Vladislavlev believes.

"People's economic freedom, along with the creation of the self-regulating economy based on private property, are the only things capable of getting Russia out of a deadlock," says Konstantin Borovoy, chairman of the Economic Freedom Party. In his interview with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA he evaluates the current political and economic situation in the country.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an interview with British Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Michael Heseltine on the occasion of his forthcoming arrival in Moscow on September 29 as head of a delegation of British businessmen. He said Britain is ready to help Russia in the implementation of the economic reform.

Kozyrev Vague on Submarine Sale to Iran

LD2509022792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 0050 GMT 25 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ignatyev]

[Text] New York, 25 Sep—"Unfortunately, I have not seen today's newspapers and cannot comment on claims about the sale of submarines to Iran," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev diplomatically replied when asked to comment on a NEW YORK TIMES report after a speech at Columbia University on 23 September.

Speaking in abstract terms about these reports, he continued: "I can say that we do indeed sell certain weapons to foreign countries, but we carry these sales out within the framework of demands to maintain stability." Russia, the minister said, "needs to maintain contacts with Iran and certain other countries."

Answering questions on this subject at an earlier news conference after talks with acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, the Russian minister said: "Our expert assessment shows that these deliveries do not exceed levels that could destabilize the situation in the region." A. Kozyrev also declared that there exists "a quite clear need to provide sales markets" for Russia's competitive export production to support the reform process.

Acting Secretary of State L. Eagleburger noted that the United States adheres to "a different position" on this question. It is after all basically the United States which remains the major world arms dealer. Recently, the AP agency recalls, President Bush approved two deals with a total value of \$15 billion for the delivery of up to 150 F-16 fighters to Taiwan and 72 F-15 fighters to Saudi Arabia.

Official: Submarine Sale Not on 'Agenda'

LD2509110092 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1042 GMT 25 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Naryshkin and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow September 25 TASS—"In connection with certain difficulties in settlements between Russia and Iran for the deliveries of special equipment, armaments and hardware, the question of selling Russian diesel submarines to Teheran does not stand on the agenda," ITAR-TASS was told by deputy chief of the main directorate for military-technological cooperation of the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, Vladimir Pakhomov.

The interview was prompted by a statement by acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger who on Thursday [24 September] expressed anxiety over Russia's plans to sell two to three diesel submarines to Iran. Such a step, he said, could create a new threat in the Gulf zone where the navies of the U.S. and other countries are permanently present.

Commenting on Eagleburger's statement, the Russian Foreign Ministry confirmed the fact of military cooperation between Russia and Iran, the details of which are not divulged for commercial and other considerations, as all other arms merchants do throughout the world. Head of the Iran department at the Russian Foreign Ministry Maxim Peshkov said, particularly, that Washington had expressed concern about Russian-Iranian deals in this field in the past as well. However, he emphasized, such an anxiety is due not to political motives but to U.S. desire to return to the Iranian arms market which they controlled under the old regime. Incidentally, the Iranian Army is still armed with American aircraft and other equipment.

The Russian diplomat added that in maintaining such cooperation with Iran, Moscow proceeds from the principle of non-violation of the alignment of forces in the region and supplies to Iran only defensive weapons. Similar answers were given on many occasions to the American side and other Western countries.

As for the arms trade in general, according to Peshkov, this business is profitable and Russia cannot give up this source of revenue at this moment.

Yeltsin Urges CIS Leaders Toward Integration

LD2509084492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0700 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] On the eve of the meeting of heads of CIS member-states in Bishkek, Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sent a personal message to the top leaders of these states. In his address, the Russian president shares his thoughts regarding the integration processes that are taking place within the framework of the Commonwealth. Proceeding from the understanding of the fact that the speed of movement toward integration of CIS member-states varies, Boris Yeltsin stresses the idea that this movement should be constructive and should satisfy all the countries' need for cooperation and security.

Regarding integration, the president of Russia proposes the adoption of a flexible system taking into account the degree of readiness and need for cooperation shown by individual members of the Commonwealth.

Ministry Lifts Restrictions on U.S. Journalists

LD2509111792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1015 GMT 25 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow September 25 TASS—"An exchange diplomatic note was delivered to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow on September 23, which confirmed the agreement on the mutual lifting of all restrictions on the movement of Russian and American journalists and trade agents around Russia and the United States," says a statement of a Russian foreign ministry spokesman, received by ITAR-TASS today. The statement points out

that "the Russian side regards the agreement as another step on the way of the implementation in full volume of the memorandum on 'open ground,' signed at the June summit, and reiterates its readiness for continuing joint work with U.S. partners in this direction."

Russia May Toughen Position Regarding Estonia

*LD2409134692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1229 GMT 24 Sep 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow September 24 Tass—"The government and parliament of Russia have quite a few levers to make the Estonia authorities realise the impermissibility of violating the rights of the republic's non-indigenous population," this warning was served today by the official ROSSIISKIYE VESTI (RUSSIAN HERALD) newspaper in a comment on the results of the Sunday [20 September] presidential and parliamentary elections in Estonia.

The newspaper claims that the elections were held without reckoning with the treaty on the principles of inter-state relations between Russia and the Estonian republic, signed on January 12, 1991. The treaty says, the newspaper recalls, that "the sides guarantee people, living on their territories at the time when the treaty is signed, the right to keep or receive the citizenship of the Russian Federation or the Estonian Republic, and hence, the right to take part in elections, in conformity with their free will."

But this agreement, the newspaper writes, "was ignored," as a result of which more than 40 per cent of the republic's population, mostly of Russian, Belarusian and Ukrainian origin, were deleted from the lists of electors. The newspaper accuses the Estonian leadership of having violated not only the Russo-Estonian treaty, but also the U.N. human rights declaration to which, it says, "Estonian politicians like to refer very much."

In reply, the Russian authorities may even "suspend the inter-state treaty and impose economic sanctions on Estonia," the newspaper warns.

Kozyrev's UN Briefing for Russian Journalists

*LD2409201392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Sep 92*

[Report by special correspondent in New York Aleksey Abakumov]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev held a briefing for Russian journalists on Thursday [24 September] at the Russian mission to the UN.

The minister noted, in particular, that special attention is being paid in New York to the report by UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali. At the moment the main points made by Butrus-Ghali are being discussed in more concrete ways.

For example, the Russian delegation has raised a very important issue of opposing aggressive nationalism, or—when applied to our country—national-patriotism, which has nothing in common with true patriotism.

Talking about Yugoslavia, Andrey Kozyrev said that Russia has succeeded in gaining support for its standpoint from the members of the Security Council. Some of them insisted on the complete expulsion of the new Yugoslavia from the organization. Russia's position consisted in condemning the aggressive forces in Belgrade, while at the same time making it clear to all those trying to achieve a settlement that the doors of UN will be open to the Federative Republic of Yugoslavia.

The UN has received with understanding the information that the use of force might become necessary in order to restore peace on the territory of a number of republics of the former Soviet Union.

Answering our correspondent's questions, Andrey Kozyrev said he does not rule out a possibility that some of Russia's new foreign policy initiatives might meet with great resistance inside the country and not outside its boundaries.

Kozyrev Meets With German Foreign Minister

*LD2409215892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
2047 GMT 24 Sep 92*

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] United Nations September 25 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel in New York on Thursday [24 September].

They discussed some aspects of Russian-German relations, which will be included in the agenda of the forthcoming bilateral talks in Moscow.

The two foreign ministers discussed, in particular, paying off compensation to Russian victims of Nazi persecutions.

The two ministers' forthcoming meeting in Moscow is to prepare German Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit to Moscow, which is expected to impart new impetus to comprehensive bilateral cooperation.

PRC Official Comments on Yeltsin's China Trip

*LD2409144292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1203 GMT 24 Sep 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Grigory Arslanov]

[Text] Beijing September 24 TASS—"China attaches great importance to President Yeltsin's forthcoming visit. This is a very important event, which will exert substantial influence on the further development of relations between China and Russia," ITAR-TASS was

told by a high-ranking official of the Chinese foreign ministry, who wished to remain anonymous.

"Sino-Russian relations have made good progress in recent years. Cooperation between the two countries is steadily growing in the political, economic, scientific, technological, cultural and other areas, including military matters," the official noted. However, he said that both sides have still much work to do. "We are confronted with common tasks in developing and building up our societies and states. We are neighbours. Our two countries are linked for a long time by relations of friendship and cooperation. We have much in common in many spheres. I, personally, am a great optimist as regards Russo-Chinese relations," he stressed.

"Guided by the five principles of peaceful coexistence and rising above ideological stereotypes, China wants to promote relations of friendship and cooperation with Russia on a lasting and stable basis. Historical experience teaches us that such relations meet the common aspirations of the two nations, help promote peace and stability in Asia and all over the world. We are sure that the visit to China by the head of the Russian state is bound to be crowned with complete success," the official stressed.

Commission on Russian-Chinese Border Meets

LD2409110992 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service*
in Russian 0908 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Beijing, 24 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—The second session of the joint Russian-Chinese demarcation commission took place in Beijing on 12-24 September. The session passed in a friendly and business-like atmosphere. The sides exchanged views on questions of demarcation of the eastern section of the Russian-Chinese border and signed corresponding demarcation documents. As agreed by both sides, the third session of the joint commission will take place in Russia in the first half of 1993.

During the work of the session, Tian Zengpei, head of the Chinese Government delegation and PRC deputy foreign minister, met with Russian members of the joint demarcation commission, headed by special Ambassador G.V. Kireyev.

Fund To Pay for Information on American MIA's

LD2409191292 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service*
in Russian 1201 GMT 24 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Sep—The recently formed Russian fund for the search for U.S. prisoners of war [POW's] is prepared to conclude treaties with any individuals and to pay them for information about officers and men of the U.S. Army lost without trace during World War II in Indochina and Korea. This was stated at a news conference today by Konstantin Borovoy, cochairman of the Economic Freedom Party, one of the founders of the fund.

He explained the idea behind the fund as follows: "Ross Perot (the U.S. millionaire who took part in the current U.S. presidential election campaign) asked us at a meeting in the United States to turn our attention to this problem. Not quite sure what to do at first, I agreed, because in our business one doesn't refuse. The fund, which was founded exclusively by private individuals, has \$1 million and 5 million rubles at its disposal. This is starting capital, and to solve the problem we will only spend as much as is necessary". Ross Perot has also promised financial aid to the fund.

In Borovoy's opinion, the fund differs from other organizations involved in similar quests in that the penetrative force "of private cash possesses greater energy than the activities of bureaucratic organizations". In other words, the fund believes that the citizens and a number of organizations of Russia to whom he put the proposal on cooperation, will be more willing to share information "for solid remuneration", than to give it away to someone else "for nothing." At the same time, Anna Zolotareva, the fund's lawyer, warned that checking of any information provided would be rigid.

Konstantin Borovoy and his colleague, U.S. businessman Daniel Lev, gave an assurance that they will "work closely together" with all the state bodies in Russia and abroad, and especially with the Russian-U.S. commission headed by Dmitriy Volkogonov and Malcolm Toon.

Article Examines Global Air Defense Development

MK2409120192 Moscow *NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA*
in Russian 23 Sep 92 p 2

[Maksim Tarasenko commentary under "Opinion" rubric: "SDI—Anti-SDI. Global Protection or a Big Nothing?"]

[Text] Six months have already elapsed since Russian President Boris Yeltsin called on the United States to jointly develop an antimissile defense system (in place of the Strategic Defense Initiative), thus effecting a virtual 180-degree turn in our official attitude toward the "star wars" program.

At the Russian-American top-level meeting in June the sides signed a memorandum of agreement (to elaborate jointly with allies and other interested states a concept for a global system of protection against a limited ballistic missile strike).

A working meeting between representatives of the U.S. and Russian space departments was held 10-11 June in Washington, half of which was devoted to a discussion of the prospects of military cooperation in space. Another meeting was held in Moscow in mid-July, in which, on the American side, the U.S. assistant secretary of the Air Force for space issues participated alongside the director of NASA. Need it be said that it did not prove possible to obtain any details on the content and results of these

meetings? The central press did not even make any mention of the meetings themselves.

However, it is not hard to predict the concept of future military-space cooperation which can be elaborated by the inventors' collectives that have been working for 10 years on the American SDI and the Soviet "asymmetric response."

But maybe now, following the end of the cold war, we really need to change our attitude toward SDI, particularly since we are no longer talking about its original concept but about a so-called system of "global protection against limited strikes" [GPALS]?

First of all, it must be specified that the new concept—GPALS—is utterly different from the old SDI.

The aim of SDI was to create an impenetrable shield against a massive missile strike by the USSR. In eight years of work even the program's most ardent supporters saw the technical impossibility of creating such a system. And when, as a result of the detente in Soviet-U.S. relations and the first steps toward the reduction of nuclear arsenals, the threat of a Soviet strike started to recede rapidly, the Americans were left with the choice of either finding another, more modest aim for the program, or scrapping it.

A suitable aim was obligingly suggested by Saddam Husayn. Future ABM defense systems' specifications and performance characteristics which now appear attainable could in principle ensure the repulsing of a third-country strike by a force of up to 200 warheads.

But even if you agree that a system for protection against a limited strike is technically possible, does this mean that its creation will really enhance the world community's security?

While alluding to threats on the part of third countries, it is relevant to recall that the aggression of many of them over a period of decades was stimulated, or at least materially supported, by the rival superpowers. If the confrontation between the United States and the former USSR is really replaced by cooperation, only a madman would risk challenging the world community, irrespective of whether he has an ABM defense system.

As for mad dictators, who are essentially the reason why it is being proposed that the system be constructed, it would not be a bad idea to look at the system beforehand from the viewpoint of those against whom we are planning to protect ourselves.

The creation by Russia and the United States of a joint system of ABM defense against third countries will only intensify our former allies' feeling that they have been betrayed and have been left "within a circle of enemies" (Cuba, North Korea). A feeling of doom rarely helps you think rationally.

It is clear that when the two leading nuclear powers start creating a system that devalues the nuclear arsenals of

third countries, these countries will start looking for ways of overcoming ABM systems.

This path had already been found and taken by the USSR and the United States at the end of the 1960's—building up the number of missiles, developing multiple reentry vehicles, installing decoy targets. Thus begins the endless race of defensive and offensive systems. The USSR and U.S. leaderships of the time were able to realize this and agree on restricting ABM defense systems. Renewing just such a race at the level of superpowers—third-world nuclear countries will scarcely prove less destabilizing and destructive.

This circumstance provides us with another reason for retaining the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (1972). The ABM Treaty directly prohibits the development, testing, and deployment of ABM systems of any basing mode which ensure the protection of a country's whole territory.

Since the treaty is bilateral, it can be abrogated with the mutual agreement of the sides. But even if you allow that the improvement in Russian-American relations is already so profound and irreversible that the ABM Treaty has lost its direct significance in restricting the arms race between the two superpowers, it is expedient to retain it as an effective example of the leading nuclear powers' desire for disarmament and an object lesson for the campaign to prevent a similar race at the emergent new line of North-South confrontation.

For defense against the currently existing missile threat, however, it would be quite sufficient to create a system of regional defense against tactical missiles as well as a global early warning system. This would provide "a morsel" for the defense sectors and would not contravene the ABM Treaty, sparing the United States and Russia from any suspicion of a conspiracy against the third world.

The deterrence of a missile threat on the part of third countries should be sought not by trying to make their missile weapons "powerless and obsolete" (which is what Reagan wanted to do with Soviet missile weapons), but by extending and improving the international regime for monitoring [kontrol za] missile technology and, naturally, by taking every possible political step to normalize international relations. Remember, the end of the cold war was initiated not by Reagan's "position of strength" but by Gorbachev's "new political thinking."

The missile technology monitoring regime must be significantly improved and transformed from the purely prohibitive Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls [Cocom] rules to a genuinely international regime which, like the International Atomic Energy Agency's nuclear technology regime, would promote the development of peaceful missile technology under effective international control.

However, as yet the proposals on joint work to create a global protection system, as Academician Yevgeniy Velikhov and First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin have noted, "have met with practically no objections either among designers or among scientists." This is not surprising, because all the relevant designers were working on "our answer to SDI" and practically all prestigious scientists in the relevant spheres have made their contribution by working on economic contracts. And now that state budget financing is drying up, it is not criticism of the American program that will promise material support, but the continuation of the previous work together with our former adversaries.

But the fact that the undoubtedly important problem of the survival of our missile-space industry today may not be so close to the taxpayer's heart is no reason to palm off on him in exchange a hypothetical protection against a presumed threat.

U.S. Senator on Buying Russia's Uranium

*LD2509104992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0915 GMT 24 Sep 92*

[By U.S. Senator Alan Cranston exclusively for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Washington September 24 TASS—America's decision to buy as much as 500 tons of weapons-grade uranium from Russia's dismantled nuclear warheads makes eminent good sense for both countries.

U.S. purchase of the highly enriched uranium for use in commercial nuclear power plants would help keep it from falling into the hands of terrorists' groups or irresponsible governments like Libya or Iraq.

And since the U.S. Energy Department's uranium plants are notoriously inefficient (they are described as "money-losing electricity guzzlers"), diluting the Russian uranium and feeding it to American power plants would require less electricity and save money.

As for the Russians, the sale also would provide a secure way to finance the expensive process of nuclear arms reduction and disposal that is only now beginning.

The deal is along lines proposed by Russian Atomic Energy Minister Victor Mikhailov when he was in Washington in July. It also echoes legislation introduced in the U.S. congress late last year with the support of Senator Claiborne Pell, chairman of the senate foreign relations committee.

My bill was called the "nuclear weapons security and plowshares act." It would have allowed for the Commonwealth of Independent States to trade ex-Soviet special nuclear materials for U.S. agricultural products at a time when food in many of the republics was sorely needed.

The new arrangement calls instead for outright U.S. purchase the uranium. This would give the Russian government a substantial source of hard currency.

Most importantly, part of the money, I understand, would go for safety improvements on Soviet-built nuclear reactors still in operation in the CIS. The urgent need for safety improvements on these rickety power stations is something the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has warned about publicly.

The U.S. agreement to buy enriched uranium from Russia, details of which are to be worked out over the coming year, should help Russia make its nuclear power industry safer. I wholeheartedly support the proposal.

Radio Assesses U.S. Nuclear Testing Position

*LD2409155192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 1429 GMT 24 Sep 92*

[Commentary by Yuriy Solton]

[Text] The United States has hastened to complete the programme of nuclear tests planned for the 1992 fiscal year ending on 30th September. The Nevada testing ground has seen two underground nuclear blasts over the past six days. The administration has turned a deaf ear to the US Congress's calls to introduce a nuclear moratorium for a term of between nine to 12 months and terminate nuclear explosions by 1996.

Neither the Energy Department, responsible for the programme, nor the Pentagon itself notified the Congress, even preliminarily, as has usually been the practice before. Administration officials allege that the United States needs nuclear testing to check the safety, reliability and effectiveness of nuclear weapons but that is, of course, only part of the truth. Military experts have calculated that after the American atomic bombardment of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, the nuclear powers have staged more than 1,900 tests with some 85 per cent of all the nuclear explosions planned to perfect nuclear forces. Even today, the Pentagon admits that the blasts in Nevada are not essential to develop more sophisticated nuclear weapons but such a programme hardly matches the process underway in the United States and Russia to slash their nuclear arsenals. It also undermines the nuclear non-proliferation regime; one of the most pressing problems today.

The new varieties of nuclear warheads being designed cost less and are simpler to produce and handle. But there is yet another factor to consider. The continuation of American nuclear tests may trigger off a chain reaction. When China exploded its nuclear device last summer it immediately declared that it favoured the total termination of nuclear testing. France has joined Russia's nuclear moratorium, the terms of which, however, expire on 1st October.

Russia's leadership has received quite a few requests from public activists in independent Commonwealth and other countries to continue the nuclear moratorium. Not long ago, such an appeal was addressed to it and to the US administration by eminent scientists and politicians from the 50 countries participating in the Pugwash

Conference. Moscow is ready to favourably respond to these appeals, provided the other nuclear club members do the same. But in Russia there is an influential group amongst the military, politicians and scientists, who argue that such a long pause in testing, two years now, when other countries have continued tests and that consequently Russia's government has put its national security seriously at risk [sentence as heard].

It cannot be ruled out that a decision to resume nuclear explosions will be adopted. The fate of a total nuclear test ban, which Moscow and the overwhelming majority of other UN member countries have advocated for so long, will much depend on whether Washington and London change their positions or not.

U.S., Russia To Launch Joint Space Project

*LD2409195592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1647 GMT 24 Sep 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Rena Kuznetsova]

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—American astronauts are expected to arrive in the Zvezdnyy Gorodok in the suburb of Moscow in the second half of October to begin preparations for a joint Russian-U.S. space flight.

Under an agreement between Russia and the United States, a Russian cosmonaut will perform a space flight on board the American "Shuttle" in 1993, and a U.S. astronaut will work aboard the Russian "Mir" space station in 1994.

The right to fly on board the "Shuttle" will be contested by the Russian cosmonauts now undergoing training at the Russian cosmonaut training centre.

The joint flight on board the "Mir" orbital station is expected to last over three months, according to Yuriy Koptev, director general of the Russian space agency.

Koptev said special attention would be paid to medical and biological research. A special medical laboratory will be installed on board for the purpose, Koptev said.

Koptev believes the main aim of joint work in space is to create common space systems.

Proposals for the future joint space project are being considered by the Russian "Energiya" research and production association.

Russia and the United States have some experience in joint work in space. In 1975, a "Soyuz-Appolo" joint space mission was accomplished.

Shokhin Views Meeting with World Bank President

*LD2409165392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 0335 GMT 21 Sep 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington, 21 Sep—What credits, and on what conditions, Russia would like to receive from the World Bank—these were the issues discussed at the Sunday [20 September] meeting between A. Shokhin, deputy chairman of the Russian Government, and L. Preston, president of the World Bank.

During our conversation we discussed a whole range of issues concerning the cooperation between Russia and the Bank, A. Shokhin said in his interview to an ITAR-TASS correspondent. Much attention was given to the credit agreements which are being prepared, and we have expressed our wish to speed up their discussion at the World Bank Board of Directors.

For instance, privatization is now in full swing in our country, but the Bank leaders do not intend to discuss a privatization loan to Russia before the start of winter. This means that a real agreement on it can only be reached two months later. Thus the peak of privatization is not going to coincide with the peak of real support from the World Bank. The President and other Bank leaders have promised to do all they can to comply with our request. True, much depends on ourselves here, because we have not yet worked out sufficient technical details to submit specific proposals.

Another important problem discussed at our meeting with L. Preston was the machinery of credit guarantees, A. Shokhin continued. Among the Bank's stipulations on loan-making there is one proviso which, in fact, makes the whole of Russia's state property a security, and also ties all other organizations' investments to the Bank's credits. It follows that every time these organizations, banks, and international institutes make an investment in Russia, they have to submit the conditions for the World Bank's approval. This we find unacceptable, for one simple reason: the World Bank itself believes that at best it can meet up to 15 percent of Russia's needs in investments. Yet the remaining 85 percent of investments, whoever makes them, fall under its very strict control. This hampers the inflow of foreign capital, above all private capital, into Russia.

At our meeting we agreed that we need to find in the very near future a purely legal way to get round this proviso, and to insert an amendment into the Bank's documents, valid for at least five years and applicable to the countries where state property prevails.

Issues of technical assistance to Russia were also discussed at the meeting, A. Shokhin said in conclusion. The participants of the G-7 finance ministers' conference on 19 September called for international assistance to Russia to be coordinated. In their view, the coordination has to be implemented by a special group to be set up at the World Bank.

FRY's Panic Discusses Relations With Russia

924C2415A Moscow TRUD in Russian
22 Sep 92 p 3

[Report on interview with Milan Panic, prime minister of Yugoslavia, on his return to Belgrade on 21 September, by TRUD correspondent Vladimir Pakhomov: "Milan Panic: I Remain Your Friend"]

[Text] "We have no greater friend than Russia," Milan Panic, prime minister of the new Yugoslavia, uttered these words in conversation with your correspondent on board his aircraft at an altitude of 10,000 meters over the Southern Urals on his way home from a trip to China.

"I say this not only because for me personally my acquaintanceship with Russia began in October 1944, when the Red Army entered Yugoslav territory. I was in the ranks of a partisan detachment at that time. And it was at that time, not for long, it is true, that I donned the military uniform of a fighter of the Red Army. There was simply no other clothing.

"Yes, I am rightly called an anticommunist inasmuch as I always had big disagreements with this regime. But never have my views degenerated into anti-Russian or anti-Russian Federation sentiments. On the contrary, I have always, even at the most difficult times of the 'cold war,' being in America, called for the creation of a 'star wars of peace' program. I referred here to a program of assistance to the democratization of your society, not the creation of plans for the destruction of cities of your

country. I have always maintained and continue to say that a hungry man can never be truly free. I remain a friend of Russia now also, at a time when my country, Yugoslavia, is experiencing difficult days of civil strife. I am profoundly convinced that it is the former Titoist Yugoslavia which is now a 'small mirror' reflecting the main events occurring on the giant expanses of Russia. Our similarity has not only deep historical roots but also prospects for the future, to which I attribute primarily the successful attempts to democratize the practices which existed earlier."

With these words the prime minister completed his interview literally moments prior to landing at Sheremetyevo-2, where, following a meeting with A. Kozyrev, foreign minister of the Russian Federation, he announced a very decisive step. He declared his government's intention to request admittance of the new Yugoslavia to the United Nations.

There is no doubt that this decision of the Yugoslav premier will bring about a wave of contradictory political activity in the country. Resistance should be expected primarily from the leaders of Serbia's governing Socialist Party and also radical representatives in the parliament of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The recent parliamentary debate on the socialists' unsuccessful attempt to pass a vote of no confidence in the Panic government will seem child's play compared with what can be expected from the next few days in Yugoslavia, the majority of specialists believe. But they are convinced that decisive action is needed to ensure a solution of the dramatic events which have caused the biggest loss of life in Europe since the times of World War II.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Decrees Preparing of Legislative Program

OW2409224992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1903 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A decree issued by Russian President Boris Yeltsin speaks of the necessity to prepare a draft legislative programme for submission to the Russian Supreme Soviet before November 1st this year. The document stresses that the programme is based on the objectives that resulted from the signing of the Federative Treaty, and on those provisions of the Constitution of the Russian Federation referring to national-state and administrative-territorial structuring, together with the organisation of local self-government in the Russian Federation.

The Russian State Justice Department has been allocated the task of coordinating the preparation of the programme. The Department, in accordance with the document, is to become a unified judicial service for the Russian head of state, the government and the security council. The department will be empowered to coordinate the activity of executive power organs in formulating legal policy, and in preparing and supervising draft legislative work and the conclusions made by the Russian president on this draft legislation.

Yeltsin Approves Judicial Concept Experiment

LD2409141492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1332 GMT 24 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed a resolution giving the green light to an experiment in Russia to try out in practice a new concept of legal proceedings in the republic, presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov said on Thursday [24 September].

The experiment will crown the first stage of judicial reform in Russia. It will take place in several Russian regions in 1992-1993. All preparations for the experiment are expected to be completed by November 15, 1992, Kostikov said.

Collegium Discusses Georgian, Estonian Situations

LD2209142692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1000 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow September 22 TASS—The situation in Abkhazia, western Georgia, and the situation forming in Russo-Estonian relations in connection with the presidential elections in Estonia were discussed by a meeting of the Russian Government's collegium held on Tuesday

morning. Gennadiy Shipitko, head of the press centre of the government, told ITAR-TASS.

He said it was stressed at the meeting that "the Russian Government will be guided in its actions in the north Caucasian region by its political interests and by common human interests, and will be using political measures to promote the normalisation of the situation in Georgia, since the situation in Georgia has an indirect influence on the situation in the Commonwealth of Independent States and affects Russia's interests. Because of this, Russia cannot keep apart from the processes taking place in Georgia".

It was stated at the collegium meeting that Russia's interests in the northern Caucasus assumed priority importance in the government's actions with regard to republics of the former USSR, Shipitko said.

During the analysis of Russo-Estonian relations at the collegium meeting, it was stressed that the interests of the Russian-speaking population in Estonia had been ignored during the recent presidential elections there, Shipitko said. "It can be said that as of today Russia adopts a tough policy with regard to Estonia", Shipitko said. He also said that, as it was noted at the collegium meeting, "Russia regards the interests of Russians in Estonia as its own vital interests and will be upholding them by every possible means".

Official Criticizes Position on New Yugoslavia

OW2309150192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1300 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Executive Secretary of the Russian Federation's Constitutional Commission Oleg Rummyantsev described as a serious mistake Russia's support for the UN Security Council's recommendation to expel Yugoslavia from the UN.

Rummyantsev told journalists on Wednesday that "Russia had voted for someone else's interests, betraying Yugoslavia once again and losing the Balkans." Having not used the veto right Russia showed that it is ceasing to be an independent entity in world affairs, he said.

Rummyantsev is convinced that the Security Council's decision delivered a blow on Russia's geo-political interests. The Russian Foreign Ministry, he said, definitely figures in the US-Germany-Turkey line, which oppose Russia's presence in the Balkans and favour the break-up of Yugoslavia and the strengthening of Croatia.

He accused the Foreign Ministry and the Russian representatives in the Security Council of "neglecting the recommendations of the parliament", and said that he will urge the parliament to consider the activity of the Foreign Ministry leaders.

Nationalist Urges Changes in Foreign Policy

OW2209190992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1502 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin and Vyacheslav Terekhov; from "Diplomatic Panorama"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a press conference given in Moscow on Monday the former KGB general Aleksandr Sterligov, leader of the Russian National Congress which includes several ultra-nationalist groupings, called for radically changing priorities in Russia's foreign and financial policies.

Today Russia's foreign policy is too dependent on the West, he said. According to A. Sterligov, Russia's Foreign Ministry has upset "the traditional balance of interests between the Islamic world, the Slav countries and Europe". Ties with the East were weakened in favour of the West, A. Sterligov declared.

He called for reorienting Russia's foreign policy for the purpose of strengthening relations with India, China and Arab countries in the East and with Germany in Europe.

Russia should give top priority to its relations with Germany, said A. Sterligov. According to him, Russia waged distressing wars with Germany on two occasions in the 20th century "because of tragic concurrence of circumstances or someone's malicious intent".

According to A. Sterligov, in the near future the unified Germany will play an important role not only in Europe, but also in the world as a whole, and therefore Russia must use Germany's political, scientific and technical potential in the right way. "We must cooperate, not fight", declared the leader of the Russian National Congress.

With reference to the financial difficulties faced by Russia, he added that to artificially raise the rate of U.S. dollar against the ruble was "nothing but economic subversion".

Russia has been forced out of the world's arms market through the fault of its present government, said A. Sterligov. Though "Russian weaponry is viewed as the world's best in many parameters, under conversion cooking utensils are manufactured instead of it".

United Opposition Calls for Government's Removal

PM2309154192 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 19 Sep 92 p 3

[Agreement by left- and right-wing opposition signed by united opposition political council: "For Russia's Salvation"]

[Text] 1. The coalition of left- and right-wing political forces states its fundamental opposition to the regime currently in power in Russia which is openly flouting the constitution, bears the main responsibility for the union government's political and economic collapse, and is

conducting an unconcealed antinational policy of robbing and destroying the country.

Cooperating with the regime, whose aim is to finally destroy the unified state, is not possible for any movement defending Russia's national interests, therefore the very next task for the united opposition is to remove Yeltsin's ruling clique from power, and as a consequence, deny him the opportunity of further ruining the country.

2. Recognizing this task to be of prime importance for any program for Russia's genuine political and economic revival, the opposition considers that it is necessary to put to one side the conflicts between the parties until it has been fully put into effect. The new Russia's political pluralism may only be based on the regenerated state's common national interests, and for as long as the Yeltsin regime threatens its very existence, any differences of opinion between the political powers which are defending the country's unity and its people's well-being, will only make Russia's lot even more difficult.

3. The united opposition defends as a matter of principle the constitutional approach to a change in power in Russia, as the future Russian government's observance of the Constitution is the basis for its future democratic structure. Therefore the united opposition insists on convening an extraordinary Congress of Russian People's Deputies in the near future in order to resolve the main question: "the resignation of President Yeltsin and his Cabinet and the Formation of a Coalition Government of National Trust."

At the same time history teaches us that when the ruling clique in any country ignores constitutional norms and moves from representative government to unlimited despotism, it is the people's right and duty to overthrow such a government and to create new and genuine foundations for rule by the people. This principle is in full accordance with the General Declaration of Human Rights which the United Nations adopted in 1948.

4. After the present regime has been removed from power, the united opposition is prepared to form a coalition government which answers to the representative power. Its main task will be to carry out the emergency anticrisis measures proposed by the united opposition's declaration and to overcome the country's division, which Yeltsin's regime has forced on it and which is against the wishes of its people.

5. The opposition is not predetermining the state's political future, which should be determined by the democratic expression of all its citizens' wills. Their right to self-determination is, in the first place, the right to a unified country and the free choice of its form of government, which neither manipulations of referendum questions nor the arbitrary rule of dictatorial presidents, who are "privatizing" the country in their own interests, can revoke.

Therefore, in the coming year the coalition government should hold a general election on the basis of a direct,

equal, and secret ballot to an emergency representative organ of the whole country which will also determine the form of government and the government's composition in order to establish the will of its citizens.

6. The difference of the political approaches and views on the country's future after the reestablishment of the state's integrity presupposes autonomy of action by the coalition's political forces.

The united opposition calls on all political parties, movements, trade unions, strike committees, and other associations of citizens opposed to Yeltsin's regime to join forces around a joint program to recreate Russia's unified statehood and make their constructive contribution to its development and implementation.

[Signed] United Opposition Political Council

Summary of Government Decisions, Agreements

PM2309132592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 15 Sep 92 First Edition p 7

["Official" column: "Agreements, Decisions..."]

[Text] The Russian Government has approved a draft agreement with the Ukrainian Government on cooperation in the construction of facilities in third countries. Bilateral Russian-Ukrainian agreements, protocols on the principles of joint state funding, and international agreements concluded on behalf of either Russia or Ukraine are the legal basis for collaboration in this sphere.

According to the document, Moscow and Kiev intend to regulate their foreign economic activities by building facilities abroad on the basis of reaping mutual benefit and not doing any economic damage to one another. Enterprises participating in construction will be issued with the necessary bank guarantees, will be guaranteed the transfer of all payments in foreign currency for supplies and services for the construction of facilities abroad in accordance with the terms of the contract, and will also be granted concessions in respect of duty, taxes, and charges. They will also be given assistance in obtaining quotas and licenses for the export of products required for the construction of facilities abroad.

In order to protect state interests and make foreign economic links more efficient there are plans to set up a coordinating council on matters of collaboration and cooperation in the construction of these facilities.

In order to coordinate the efforts of central organs of Russian executive authority to attract foreign investments in our economy and make them more efficient the Russian Government has formed a government commission on international investment cooperation. Its priority task is to elaborate a plan for the activities of foreign investors in the Russian Federation and proposals on the establishment of a proper market infrastructure to expand investment and bring some order to

the normative documents in the sphere of attracting foreign investments and regulating investment activity.

In line with an agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus on the property of the former USSR, the Russian part of the joint commission whose duties include examining the range of questions connected with this problem has been formed by order of the Russian Government.

To facilitate implementation of the decree of the Russian president "On the Partial Amendment of the Procedure for Applying the Temporary Russian Federation Customs Import Tariff," the country's government has approved the list of states to which the schedule of preferences in this sphere will apply.

It includes 147 countries in Asia, Africa, and South and Central America, island states situated in the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans, and also Albania and Yugoslavia.

The Russian Government has accepted a Foreign Ministry proposal to open Norwegian consulates general in St. Petersburg (the consular district embraces Leningrad, Novgorod, and Pskov Oblasts and Karelia, as well as the city on the Neva) and Murmansk (the district includes Murmansk and Arkhangelsk, Murmansk Oblast and Arkhangelsk Oblast, and the Nenets Autonomous Okrug). The Russian foreign policy department has been instructed to draw up the accords to be signed with the Norwegian side entitling Russia to open, in the future, on a reciprocal basis, consulates on the kingdom's territory, in the cities of Tromso and Kirkenes.

In line with the agreement on the principles of the settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict and in view of the need to effect the economic recovery of areas in that zone and create conditions for the return of refugees, the government has formed a Russian commission headed by A. Babenko, Russian Federation deputy minister of architecture, construction, and housing and municipal amenities.

The government has instructed Russian Federation Government deputy chairman A. Shokhin to sign an agreement between Russia and Kyrgyzstan on the regulation of questions of succession in relation to the state foreign debt and the assets of the former Union.

The Russian part of the joint Russian-Ukrainian commission whose task is to assist the implementation of the agreement between Russia and Ukraine on the further development of interstate relations has been formed by order of the Russian Federation Government.

Decree Creates Aerospace Search, Rescue Service

LD2409200792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1330 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, 24 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Federal Aerospace Search and Rescue Service (FAKSPS) [Rossiyskaya Federalnaya Aviatsionno-Kosmicheskaya

Sluzhba Poiska i Spaseniya] has been created by decree of the Russian Federation president, the president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov announced today.

Its principal aims include organizing immediate search and rescue operations for the passengers and crews of planes involved in an accident; using aviation as a help in accidents, natural and ecological disasters, and carrying out a prompt search for and transportation of cosmonauts from their landing site.

FAKSPS is being set up on the basis of the all-embracing state aviation search and rescue service of the USSR. Major General of Aviation Gennadiy Amelkin has been appointed head of the service.

Economic Issues

Air Traffic Controllers Make Fresh Demands

PM2409135592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
19 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Viktor Belikov: "Air Traffic Controllers Demand Pay of 50,000"]

[Excerpts] Exactly a month after a partially successful attempt to paralyze Russia's air transportation, the Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Trade Unions delivered another ultimatum at the height of the August travel season: The pay of air traffic control service workers should rise to 50,000 rubles or more per month.

Otherwise the strike will resume, Federation President V. Konusenko stated at a session of the sector's trilateral commission which was formed to resolve the dispute that has been going on for several months now. The trade union leader made his statement in such a way that it was necessary to note in the minutes: "The parties draw attention to the improper behavior of V.G. Konusenko, who spoke in a crude and offensive manner to commission members who do not support his position."

The representatives of the Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Trade Unions walked out of the meeting, thereby paralyzing the search for a mutually acceptable solution which would take at least some account of the interests of millions of Russian passengers. [passage omitted]

Your IZVESTIYA correspondent asked Russian Deputy Labor Minister P. Kudyukin to comment on the situation that has developed:

"You get the impression that the representatives of the Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Trade Unions are deliberately ignoring the adopted norms and procedures for resolving collective labor disputes. They seem to believe that, having secured major concessions from the government several months ago, they can continue to use the same strong-arm methods, moving 'from victory to victory.' But they can go no further—the talks are deadlocked.

"Each new attempt to put strong arm the government can only provoke harsh countermeasures from the other side. We have to avoid this sort of confrontation, and therefore we proposed taking an examination of the question to labor arbitration."

Russian Federation Deputy Transport Minister G. Matyushev announced that owing to the threat of strike action, the necessary measures are being taken to guarantee normal air links, particularly in the Arctic region, Siberia, and the Far East; freight and stocks of fuel and food for the forthcoming winter are currently being delivered to these regions.

Gaydar Warns of Inflationary Effect of Programs

LD2509115892 Moscow Radio Rossii in Russian
1100 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] On 24 September, Yegor Gaydar, acting chairman of the Russian Federation Government, spoke at a conference-seminar of deputy heads of administrations for social questions held by the Ministry for Social Protection of the population. A report from the ministry's press center today notes that Yegor Gaydar outlined the overall economic situation in Russia and then focused on problems of social policy. He noted that when drawing up social programs it is essential to carefully calculate their possible inflationary effect, since in the final analysis what is important for the consumer to know is not the amount of paper money but its purchasing power.

Yavlinskiy Derides Gaydar Reforms as Absurd

PM2409135192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
22 Sep 92 p 3

[Unattributed "Unvarnished Opinion" report on G. Yavlinskiy interview in LA STAMPA: "Grigoriy Yavlinskiy: 'The Objective Set by Gaydar Is Absurd'"]

[Text] "The total and irrevocable disintegration of Russia—that is a real prospect within a year or, at the most, two years. We already have two republics which are officially not part of Russia—Tatarstan and Chechnya. That is only the beginning. Tatarstan, for example, has no treaty with Russia. It will be signed soon, but it will be a bilateral treaty, more or less as between Russia and Italy." In an interview with LA STAMPA well-known economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy expressed this view of how events will develop in the country, unless the executive authorities take urgent steps on Russian integration.

"The central authorities and relations within the country have changed radically," G. Yavlinskiy said. "The center has no mechanism to be able to use its own power, it has no apparatus, and it is not in a position to implement the reforms. Its decisions are not being carried out and, finally, it no longer has the financial resources to carry out a policy of capital investments and social protection. The local authorities deal with citizens. But if the center

is impotent, whether they like it or not, they will have to take on these tasks themselves."

According to G. Yavlinskiy, this process is leading to a situation where several large regions rich in natural resources, in particular Tyumen, Yakutia, and Bashkortostan, are seeking to talk with the center as equals. If these processes are ignored and no effort is made to curb them, they will become irreversible and there will no way back, the economist believes.

Answering the LA STAMPA correspondent's request for an "impartial appraisal" of the activities of Ye. Gaydar's cabinet, G. Yavlinskiy said: "I cannot be impartial, because we are talking about my country, my profession, and me personally. When they took up office the inflation rate was 6 percent per month and one dollar was worth 60 rubles [R]. Now, nine months after the start of the reform, we have 30 percent inflation and the dollar is worth R220. Why is this happening? Because the objective set by Gaydar is absurd. In a country that does not exist and has 15 central banks, 15 governments, 15 parliaments, and as many presidents, Gaydar decided to stabilize the currency unit of the 15 former Soviet republics, whereas they did not agree on anything and did what they like with the ruble."

G. Yavlinskiy is equally pessimistic about the plan for introducing vouchers: "For example, you bring a voucher to me and I will have to pay you dividends. But you are not giving me money, you are not investing capital in my business. What benefit do I get from your voucher?"

You have prepared three economic reform programs which have not been adopted, the Italian journalist said in conclusion. Now you are making alarming forecasts again. Do you not feel like a Russian Cassandra? "Unfortunately, sometimes I do. Everything that was written in the '500 Days' program, for example, has subsequently come to pass, including the disappearance of the USSR," G. Yavlinskiy replied.

Economist Urges Abandoning Current Ruble Policy

*OW2509005392 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1724 GMT 24 Sep 92*

["Point of View" by Ivan Ivanov, deputy director of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of External Economic Studies: "Parliament Must Create Favorable Climate for Foreign Trade"; from "Trade & Investment"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The autumn session of Russia's parliament, which got under way on September 22, should enact legislation that would enable Russia to overcome the crisis in its trade with the rest of the world, believes economist Ivan Ivanov, deputy director of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of External Economic Studies.

Russia Twice as Dependent on External Markets as Before

After Russia became independent, its reliance on external markets more than doubled as compared with the former USSR, with the composition of its exports and imports changing significantly as well.

Disappointing External Economic Performance

Russia's exports over the first eight months of the year fell to \$21.5 bn [billion] from \$32.6 bn in the same period last year, with much of the reduction due to the country's chief export commodities—oil, oil products and timber. Imports followed suit, registering a decline from \$26.8 bn to \$21.7 bn, which has already resulted in production stoppages in industries most dependent on imports.

The inflow of foreign investment has slowed down. Only about 300 joint ventures were set up in the first half of 1992 (down from 500 in the first six months of 1991), and there have been a number of liquidations.

Russia's foreign debt is still alarmingly large, and although debt repayments have been postponed, they could eat up more than 60% of the country's annual export earnings in a few years.

Russia's external economic ties are in a state of crisis both because of the country's general economic crisis and because of specific reasons rooted in the sector's management structure.

Long Way To Go Before Foreign Trade Is Liberalized

A system of quotas and licences which is still used to regulate some 80% of Russia's exports has not undergone any kind of liberalization in spite of the government's promises. A new cut in fuel exports has recently been announced, although fuel consumption within the country is unjustifiably large. Russia is the only country in the world to levy export duties on almost the entire range of export goods.

Part of the burden shouldered by exporters has been imposed by the government out of dire need. For instance, the government has little else to do except require that exporters sell 30% of their foreign exchange earnings because it has to repay external debt and import goods that are vital for the country.

However, the requirement to sell another 20% of export earnings in the domestic foreign exchange market do not have a logical explanation. Theoretically, this money should swell supply in the currency market and ensure that the ruble is convertible. In practice, the move toward the ruble's convertibility, which was taken without any preparations and therefore reckless, has already driven the ruble down to an unthinkable low level from where it will not be raised by any currency interventions. Rather than being encouraged, this kind of convertibility should be abandoned until it is too late.

Direct Investment Preferable to Imports on Credit

When exports contract, goods can be imported primarily on credit. However, the Russian Government's opportunities to borrow from abroad have almost been exhausted, which makes direct foreign investments by the private sector all the more important. In contrast with credits spent on consumer goods, they are directly injected into production, and bring state-of-the-art technologies and managerial expertise, encouraging the development of market mechanisms.

Their slower inflow into Russia has been brought about by objective reasons—economic crisis, political instability, and regionalization. It should also be recognized, however, that the government's policies with respect to attracting and using direct foreign investments have lately been rather thoughtless. A solid legal framework has not yet been put in place, and almost all incentives originally reserved for foreign investors in the legislation have since been scrapped by the executive authorities. It is unclear what kind of role foreign investors can play in the privatization effort, although it is precisely privatization that attracts their money in Russia.

Parliament Shoulders Enormous Responsibility

The government is working on Russia's new foreign investment law, which contains the following provisions: portfolio investments are included in the term "foreign investments"; three regulatory approaches are defined for foreign investments depending on their importance; investors are permitted to bid for government contracts and take part in privatization; the concept of concessions introduced; etc. None of this, of course, will be relevant unless approved by parliament, but it would seem that such an approval will be given because deputies are seriously alarmed by the state of the country's external economic ties. For its part, parliament proposes to adopt Russia's customs code, which will make it possible to establish the country's customs border, whose absence nullifies the effect of any foreign trade controls.

Budget Submission Deadline Not Honored

PM2409145592 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 22 Sep 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In Language of Figures"]

[Text] The deadline prescribed by law for submission of the budget message for the next fiscal year expired 15 September. The budget for 1993 has not been submitted to parliament...

Numbers of working people in central organs of management (staff units):

	USSR	Russia
July 1991	36,240	14,283
June 1992	none	36,819

The Russian state apparatus has increased 150 percent and become larger than the Union apparatus was. A stunning success for the "reduction in managerial structures" announced by B.N. Yeltsin!

Yeltsin Signs Decree To Develop Far East

LD2409193792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1717 GMT 24 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin of Russia has signed a decree on measures to develop and give state support to the economy of the Far East and the Trans-Baykal area, presidential press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov announced today.

Under the decree, a state regional Far East programme is to be worked out and adopted in the first half of 1993.

The programme envisages, in particular, state support for projects promoting the transition to a new type of economic management and self-development of the region and an improvement of the living conditions of the population.

Such a programme will set out basic orientations for in-depth economic reforms in the region with due regard for the specificity of its individual territories and will determine forms for drawing domestic and foreign capital to ensure technical and technological re-equipment of the key branches of the economy, to boost export-oriented production and to stimulate entrepreneurial and investment activities.

Ways to give greater scope to foreign economic relations with due regard for the special geopolitical position of the Far East and the Trans-Baykal area in the Asia-Pacific region are to be mapped out as well.

Resolution on State Regulation of Prices

PM2409113392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 19 Sep 92 First Edition p 6

[“Resolution No. 724 of the Government of the Russian Federation on the State Regulation of Prices for Energy Resources and Other Kinds Of Goods and Services,” issued by Yegor Gaydar in Moscow on 17 September]

[Text] In execution of Decree No. 1089 of the Russian Federation President “On the State Regulation of Prices for Individual Kinds of Energy Resources,” dated 17 September 1992, the Russian Federation government resolves:

1. That the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances and the Ministry of Fuel and Energy are to present within one week to the Russian Federation government proposals differentiating in 1992 the rates of excise duty for oil, including gas condensate, in the light of the prevailing mining and geological conditions for extracting them, and a procedure for levying it.

That a rate of excise duty for oil, including gas condensate, of 18 percent be introduced pending the establishment of differentiated rates of excise duty.

2. To establish that sums of excise duty are to be paid into the federal budget and used according to the procedure determined by the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances; that sums of excise duty are to be paid into the budget by enterprises engaged in the extraction of oil, including gas condensate.

3. To establish that the size of the supply-sales surcharges on and the prices for oil products envisaged by the Russian Federation President's Decree No. 1089, dated 17 September 1992, can be altered for certain enterprises by the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy Prices Committee.

4. To establish that the change in existing tariffs for electricity and thermal energy in connection with the change in prices for fuel in line with Russian Federation Decree No. 1089, dated 17 September 1992, is to be implemented in 1992 by the Federal Energy Commission, formed by Russian Federation government Ordinance No. 493-r, dated 16 March 1992.

5. The Russian Ministry for the Economy is, in conjunction with the Russian Federation Ministry of Railways, to examine within one month the results of the financial activity of rail transport enterprises and, if need be, to submit proposals to the Russian Federation government on changing the level of tariffs for transporting freight.

6. To establish that the Russian Federation Ministry for the Economy Prices Committee is to be entitled to alter the maximum coefficients for raising tariffs for the transportation of passengers and baggage by various forms of transport on individual lines and routes envisaged by the Russian Federation President's Decree No. 1089, dated 17 September 1992.

7. To establish that as of 1 January 1993 the maximum level of profitability in forming free tariffs for transporting passengers by air and related work and services is to be 20 percent of prime cost.

To apply this level of profitability also to monopoly air transport enterprises by partial alteration of Russian Federation Government Resolution No. 576, dated 11 August 1992.

To entitle the Russian Federation Ministry for the Economy Prices Committee to increase, on representation by the Russian Federation Ministry of Transport, the maximum level of profitability in the light of air transport enterprises' expenditure on social needs.

8. To stipulate as an addendum to Paragraph 1 of Russian Federation Government Resolution No. 270, dated 24 April 1992, that state communications enterprises are to set tariffs for the population for the installation of telephone sets and a subscriber charge for the use of the telephone in city and rural localities, agreeing their level with the management

of organs of republics within the Russian Federation, krais, oblast, autonomous formations, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg.

9. That the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances and the organs of management of republics within the Russian Federation, krais, oblasts, autonomous formations, and the cities of Moscow of St. Petersburg, on raising prices for energy resources, establish subsidies—via the housing and municipal services and transport services—for the production of basic kinds of agricultural produce and for financial support in selling petrol and liquefied gas for the vehicles of individual categories of invalids.

10. To deem the following as inoperative:

Paragraphs 1 and 5 regarding wholesale prices for oil; Paragraph 2 and Subparagraph 2 of Paragraph 4 regarding payments to the price regulation fund on the supply of oil; and Paragraph 16 and Subparagraphs 1 and 2 of Paragraph 18 of Russian Federation Government Resolution No. 318 "On State Regulation of Prices for Energy Resources and Other Kinds of Products and Services," dated 18 May 1992;

Paragraph 8 of Russian Federation Government Resolution No. 411 "On State Support for the Functioning of Transport in the Russian Federation in 1992," dated 20 June 1992.

11. This resolution comes into force as of 18 September 1992.

[Signed] Y. Gaydar

Decree Limits Fuel Price Increases, Fare Hikes

*PM2409135992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
19 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2*

[Unattributed report: "Tickets and Hot Water More Expensive"]

[Text] In connection with the increased price of energy sources, ceilings have been established on price (rate) increases for services to the population with effect from 18 September under a decree by the Russian president:

for railroad tickets (except suburban trains), prices are to rise by a maximum of 50 percent;

for tickets for sea transportation (except overseas voyages and local, suburban, and city journeys and ferries), a maximum of 50 percent; for tickets for river transportation (except journeys on local, city, and suburban routes and on ferries), a maximum of 50 percent;

for air tickets (except journeys on local air routes), a maximum of 200 percent;

for kerosene, fuel coal, peat briquettes, firewood, and other analogous types of fuel, a maximum of 50 percent;

for heat intended for heating purposes or hot water supply, water and sewerage services, and liquefied gas for the population's everyday needs, a maximum of 50 percent;

for electricity used by the population in villages and cities, including electricity used in houses fitted with fixed electric stoves and electric heating units, a maximum of 50 percent.

Value-added tax has already been included in the figure for the maximum rates of increase.

Yeltsin Issues Decree on Nonstate Pension Funds

LD2409202392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1607 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—President of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, issued a decree on non-state pension funds, according to Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary of the president. The aim of the decree is to improve the pension system and protect citizens' savings from inflation. These funds will function independently of the state pension system. Payments from them will be made together with payments of state pensions.

The decree determines that the funds to be created have no right to be engaged in commercial activities. Their assets will be distributed by specialized companies bearing property responsibility for the preservation of assets and ensuring of the minimum level of profitability established by the government of the Russian Federation.

A special inspection under the Ministry of Social Protection of the population will be charged with promoting the development of activities of non-state pension funds and controlling them.

In accordance with the decree non-state pension funds as juridical persons with citizens' inscribed accounts may be founded by enterprises, institutions, organisations, banks and collectives of citizens.

Sobchak Criticizes Privatization Program Error

LD2409210392 Moscow Programma Radio Odin
Network in Russian 1100 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] The main task now facing Russia's parliament is to adopt the law on land ownership and start implementation of the land reform, according to St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak. He emphasized that the Russian Government made a mistake by not including land and accommodation in the first stage of its privatization program.

Anatoliy Sobchak noted that a consequence of this is that we are trying to privatize industry, while no means and resources have been left to implement social programs.

Electricity Industry Privatization Problems Seen

PM2409091992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
19 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Sergey Leskov report: "Electricity Industry Privatization Will Not Leave Us To Freeze"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Government session of 17 September chaired by Ye. Gaydar and representative conferences at the sector ministry prior to this examined the question of the readiness of the fuel and power industry complex for the winter. Preparations for the winter are going on against a background of general economic slump, but the traditionally acute problem is being further complicated by the fact that on the eve of the cold spells the process of privatization and flotation, which is difficult to predict, is beginning in the sector.

Generally speaking, it is not customary to change your horses in midstream. It would seem safer to wait until spring before carrying out cardinal structural reforms. But the sector, which has been classified as a priority one, is in a critical state, and to the ministry's directors changing the form of ownership seems to be a real lifesaver. The chosen model is Britain, where privatization of the electricity industry carried out three years ago yielded excellent results.

But with Russia's normative power generating reserve now fixed at 13-17 percent, this reserve is currently almost zero. This is because in order to maintain normal sector operability, it is necessary to bring 10-12 million kilowatts on line every year, but during recent years it has only been generating 2-3 million.

Russia's integrated power system enables us to make ends meet. Incidentally, in countries where no such system exists, it is necessary to maintain a 30-40 percent generating reserve. In Russia, however, controllers exploit the difference in demand for electricity across time zones and at various times of day to transfer power from one region to another. A. Baranovskiy, Russian deputy minister for fuel and power, said that in this situation it would be fatal to allow the country's integrated power system to collapse in the pursuit of modish terms like "privatization" and "flotation."

Unlike privatization in other sectors, the procedure in the electricity industry does not allow an individual collective to leave the structure of a larger one without its agreement. However, there are cases when heat and electric power plants that have been granted autonomy by a decision from the local authorities use this autonomy exclusively to earn income for themselves by generating excess power and disregarding the needs of the national economy. For example, the leased Biysk heat and electric power plant generates electricity at an increased, nonnormative wattage and refuses to comply with the controllers' instruction to discharge the station.

The established flotation procedure presupposes the establishment of a Russian joint-stock company for the

power industry and electrification which should ensure the reliability of the country's power supply. The company being set up will own 49 percent of the shares in all enterprises in the electricity generating industry, the construction and installation sector, and the machine-building enterprises sector. The percentage of shares that can be acquired by the labor collective at full value and at a discount, and also the number of shares available to the enterprises' directors and outside buyers has also been set. Some 11 percent of the shares will initially be sold on the open market. According to A. Baranovskiy, the sizable stake that is being made available to the Russian joint-stock company is necessary to guarantee investments and the development of the sector at the federal level.

If the State Committee for the Management of State Property is actively in favor of the idea, it is to be expected that the privatization and flotation of electricity generating enterprises could take place during the next six weeks to two months. This process will be drawn out over two or three years in the case of the construction organizations and machine-building plants, since a danger exists that owing to this sector's low income, these enterprises, having obtained their independence, could reorient themselves in the present climate to servicing more profitable propositions.

Government Plans Unified State Coal Company

LD2409224492 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0730 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Russia will set up a unified state coal company in the near future. The new structure will unite production and administrative functions, which at present are divided between the coal committee under the Russian Ministry of Fuel and Power Engineering and the Russian Coal Corporation. The question of creating a state coal company was discussed at a working conference of the heads of the largest Russian coal-mining enterprises, in which Deputy Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin took part. The participants of the conference were in favor of the state retaining control of the branch of economy, and of its gradual privatization.

Official Unemployment Rises to 250,000

LD2409185392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 21 Sep 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] According to data from the State Statistics Committee of Russia, for August 1992, approximately a 250,000 unemployed are officially registered in the republic. That is five times more than in January of this year. Of the unemployed, 40 percent are individuals who have been sacked as redundant.

Moreover, from 70 to 80 percent of the unemployed are women.

Big Hike in Black Market Dollar Rate

LD2309160392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 23 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to ITAR-TASS, the second big fall in the exchange rate of the ruble this month has led to a no less big rise in the dollar on the black market, the going rate today reaching 255 rubles in Moscow, and more than 300 rubles in St. Petersburg. Street dealers in the capital consider the ruble will fall further as its rate depends directly on the rise in prices of energy carriers, and the inflationary effect of the sale of vouchers.

Wages Payment Arrears Reduced in August

PM2409123192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Sep 92 First Edition p 3

[Report by Irina Koloskova of Russian State Committee for Statistics: "Russian State Committee for Statistics: Cash Arrears Reduced"]

[Text] The situation with regard to outstanding wage arrears has begun to improve. In August arrears at industrial, construction, and agricultural enterprises surveyed dropped 41 percent (27 percent in July). This was facilitated by the issue of money, the production of higher-denomination banknotes and coins, and enterprises' use of noncash forms of payment for their workers.

Outstanding arrears at enterprises in the aforementioned sectors totaled 28.2 billion rubles [R] as of 1 September (excluding money paid into workers' bank accounts). This figure was R47.6 billion 1 August. Nevertheless as of 1 September industrial, construction, and agricultural workers had been underpaid R17.3 billion, R6.4 billion, and R4.5 billion respectively.

Given the 41-percent drop in arrears on the whole the figure dropped 43 and 49 percent in industry and agriculture respectively. Whereas in construction the arrears only dropped by 23 percent.

However, there are still cases of unpaid arrears at one in four industrial, one in three construction, and one in two agricultural enterprises.

Enterprises and organizations in these sectors in Tyumen (R5.3 billion) and Sverdlovsk (R1.3 billion) oblasts, the Chechen and Ingush republics (R1.1 billion), and Krasnoyarsk Krai (R0.9 billion) account for the largest sums unpaid within the prescribed period.

Arrears in excess of 20 days by and large represent 63 percent of the total outstanding arrears. And 80-100 percent in terms of enterprises in Moscow, and Irkutsk, Kamchatka, Magadan, and Smolensk oblasts.

Owing to the banks' lack of banknotes industrial, construction, and agricultural enterprises and organizations

have failed to receive the money to pay wages and make other monetary payments to their workers to the tune of R7.9 billion. This represents 29 percent of the total outstanding arrears.

Military & Nuclear Issues

Former Nuclear Designer Sets Strategic Dilemma

LD2509113392 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service*
in Russian 2216 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, 24 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Academician Vladislav Repin of the Russian Academy has fierce objections to recent theories regarding possible—even desirable—qualitative changes to Russia's nuclear missile deterrence concept and structure. Until 1988 Vladislav Repin was general designer of the program developing the missile early warning and space monitoring system.

In his words, "we are talking about a proposal ostentatiously and in practice to exclude from Russia's defense policy the concept of the retaliatory-counterstrike strike launched on discovery of a missile attack and leaving as the sole option for retaliation a counter-strike following a hit by the enemy's missiles and elucidation of the damage done."

Adopting a counter-strike option only, Repin believes, is tantamount in its military consequences to adopting the concept of unilateral nuclear missile disarmament. Adopting that position for economic reasons is the worst option for implementation of this concept. "For ailing and impecunious Russia, virtually stripped of combat-ready conventional armed forces and unable to even carry out the evacuation of the embassy in Kabul without losses, it is utterly wasteful to blindly follow the old declaration of non-first use of nuclear weapons and would probably be more advisable to follow the U.S., French, or British examples, which have never undertaken such worthless obligations enabling the latter two countries, which have relatively few nuclear and conventional armed forces, to have great potential for deterrence," Repin concludes.

Troops Personnel Chief Views Peacekeeping Role

PM2409130592 Moscow *PRAVDA* in Russian
22 Sep 92 p 4

[Interview with Colonel S. Kavun, acting chief of the internal troops personnel directorate, by Arkadiy Semenyaka; date, place not given: "Internal Troops Not Only In Russia?.."]

[Text] The news from the Russian Internal Affairs Ministry internal troops commander's Main Directorate, according to a radio program, is that a Russian internal troops battalion is carrying out a peacemaking mission in Yugoslavia. The conversation with Colonel S. Kavun, acting chief of the directorate for work with personnel, began with a clarification of this matter.

[Kavun] We make no secret of the fact that the personnel are ready to help the law-enforcement organs to maintain public order in any part of Russia if the leadership so decides. We have enough equipment to do this, including modern aircraft. As for Yugoslavia, in my view it was an unfortunate mistake by the radio journalist.

[Semenyaka] Can you say, Stanislav Fedorovich, where exactly internal troops subunits are helping to maintain order at this moment?

[Kavun] In the North Caucasus and in Krasnodar Kray we have deployed extra personnel from operational and special motorized militia units. As is known, the situation there is tense.

The recent events in Abkhazia caused the already tense situation in the North Caucasus to explode. Now emissaries from the trouble spots are taking advantage of the notorious "transparent" borders to trawl cities and villages of the former Union for weapons and to commit robbery and murder... This rampage has to be stopped immediately.

[Semenyaka] Will it be possible to stop the seizure of weapons on the territory of Russia and the illegal acquisition of them?

[Kavun] In the first half of the year alone law-enforcement organs confiscated around 1,500 firearms, including automatic weapons, from criminals. Since the Russian president's 24 August decision on improving the sociopolitical situation, internal troops have already seized around 200 firearms, more than half of them rifles. In one unit alone a detail seized nine pistols, 26 kg of gunpowder, and other ammunition in the space of 24 hours. Servicemen arrested 165 people for committing crimes and more than 1,000 for public order offenses. We will continue to increase our efforts to stop weapons getting into Russia from the Transcaucasus, Central Asia, and other countries and help local law-enforcement organs to maintain public order.

[Semenyaka] Are there enough internal troops there to stabilize the crime situation?

[Kavun] Our task is merely to help the local authorities in the fight against crime, not to place the entire burden on the shoulders of the young soldiers. I want to say that the extra subunits are in the North Caucasus at the request of the Dagestan, Kabardino-Balkaria—it is in this republic that the situation is most difficult—and, earlier, North Ossetia authorities. But despite the problems, the situation is under control. Our forces are sufficient to carry out the tasks.

[Semenyaka] What is the internal troops' role in the region's political life?

[Kavun] They are nonpolitical.

Officers' Assemblies Directive Goes Into Force

PM2409132192 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 17 Sep 92 p 1

[Russian Federation Defense Ministry Press Service report: "Officers' Assembly—I Have the Honor!"]

[Text] The Directive on the Officers' Assembly has come into force in the Russian Armed Forces.

It stipulates that officers' assemblies are to be formed in brigades, regiments, on ships, and in individual battalions (divisions) and units equivalent to them. If military units stationed on a garrison's territory have a small officer complement, a combined garrison officers' assembly may be formed. The directive does not envisage coordinating structures beyond brigade level. This document was brought into force by the Russian Federation Defense Minister's order No. 147 of 12 September 1992.

Military Communications Association Privatizing

LD2409223692 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Report by correspondent N. Buchatskaya; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Kaskad research and development association, which deals in automated communications and information technology, is being turned into an international shareholders company. The constituent meeting was held today. This is one of the military-industrial complex's strongest enterprises, and it is also engaged in space technology and communications. It is made up of 37 enterprises in Russia and 15 in other CIS republics. According to General Director Anatoliy Myshletsov, there are brilliant prospects for the conversion of this vast association. Over the next 10 years the pace of development in telecommunications systems could be twice as fast as in other sectors of the economy.

[Begin Myshletsov recording] Information and data-transfer systems know no borders. [end recording]

Defense Minister Grachev Visits Novaya Zemlya

PM2209130992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 22 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by V. Karkavtsev under the "Facts Alone" rubric: "Visits"]

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and Viktor Mikhaylov, Russian minister of atomic energy and industry, paid a one-day visit to Novaya Zemlya. There they examined issues pertaining to reducing the number of servicemen and units based at the nuclear test site and possibly transferring them to the mainland.

However, preparations for the next tests are going ahead here at full speed.

Nuclear Power Industry Training Center Profiled

PM2209153392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya
Ostankino Television First Program Network
in Russian 1400 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Report by V. Ageyev and O. Nidelin in Voronezh Oblast; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Ageyev] [video shows power station towers] Sad to say, the reliability and operational safety of nuclear power stations is one of the main problems facing the world community. A group of U.S. nuclear power industry specialists has visited the Novovoronezhskiy training center, which trains nuclear power station operational personnel. Today many of the center's graduates work not only at nuclear power stations in Russia and the CIS but also in many West European countries. The aim of the visit to the center was to discuss questions on possible areas of cooperation in improving the skills of specialists operating water-cooled, water-moderated reactor or VVER power units. The sides exchanged experience gained in the operation of nuclear installations of the VVER type. How is the quality of training that the nuclear power station specialists receive today guaranteed?

[V.I. Duvgiy, deputy director of the AES Training Center] The work of our Novovoronezhskiy training center shows that the training received by students at our center and others specializing in different areas ensures operational safety because the student gets a thorough grounding here, his expertise is thoroughly tested, and as a result he then does a thoroughly good job of performing his duties at a nuclear power station. [video shows views of power station]

Supreme Soviet**Supreme Soviet Session Continues in Moscow****Khasbulatov Addresses Session 23 Sep**

LD2409110292 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1824 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Statement by Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov at the Supreme Soviet session in Moscow on 23 September; from the "Report From the Russian Supreme Soviet" program—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed Deputies: I would like to give you some information. I am not going to try to sum things up: I think Vladimir Olegovich Ispravnikov carried out the job of any chairman. I would just like to remind you of something with regard to various accusations of inaccuracy and so on.

When we were adopting the budget document at the insistence of the finance minister, as you may recall, it was clearly written, if I am not mistaken, that 17 regions were refusing to pay taxes. Well, in connection with the explanations given by the esteemed Yegor Timurovich [Gaydar], it is clear that only two of these 17 remain. If

that is so, then it is an outstanding victory for the finance minister and the government. Aleksandr Petrovich Pochinok can undoubtedly provide us with information later as to whether this is true or not. So it is hardly appropriate here to make accusations of lying and so on. There have been instances of regions that do not pay taxes and, unfortunately, they have had a tendency to increase. We all know this very well.

Now I would like to tell you what the intention was when we invited the acting prime minister to speak at the first session on such a complicated matter here at the Supreme Soviet. To tell you frankly, we did not have the intention of adopting any document or decision. We certainly had no intention of raising the question of confidence or no-confidence, resigning or not resigning. We know very well, and you have surely felt it yourselves when meeting the electorate, how great the heat and pressure are. Therefore, we invited him to speak so the people would be very well aware that the first question with which we started our session was the discussion of the most important item—the social and political situation.

Since in the near future, literally in about 10 days time, we are to discuss specific questions—the privatization program, the overall program for deepening economic reforms—it would simply be a strategic mistake by the Supreme Soviet—and we have committed many mistakes—to try today to raise the question of confidence or no-confidence to the accompaniment of such very sharp opinions. Therefore, I would earnestly ask you not to raise this question even if you insist on adopting some sort of specific decision.

Just look, it seems to me that Deputy Kovalev expressed a rather deep thought when he said that if he was convinced that there was some other program then perhaps even now he would vote against the government. Consequently, when we are going to discuss the very same privatization programs...[changes thought] The chairman of the supreme economic council has said there is such a program, there is another one. There is not just an alternative program. There are very serious opinions, ideas, and thoughts that supplement it and that must be developed. Therefore, we ourselves must also get to the bottom of it. Therefore, I would ask you not to rush and not to give today such judgmental...[changes thought] not to take judgmental actions, but to give the opportunity to do some work on it.

That is the first thing. The second thing is that much has been said about an extraordinary congress. We must renounce the idea of an extraordinary congress, of extraordinary powers, any sort of extraordinary actions. It is high time to transfer the country, the parliament, and the government into a normal work regime.

Therefore, in accordance with the present Constitution, in November or December—it is the Supreme Soviet that will decide in the end—at the end of November or the beginning of December or the end of December, we are obliged, it is our constitutional duty, to begin to

prepare for a congress, a routine congress, no extraordinary ones—let us renounce such major actions.

Therefore, I would ask you, if you are going to insist on adopting some sort of document, to take account of these aspects. So let us move on to the discussion. So what do you propose, esteemed deputies?

Chubays Discusses Privatization

LD2409130792 Moscow Radio Rossi Network
in Russian 1110 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Report by special correspondent Vladimir Kurnikov from the Russian Supreme Soviet session in Moscow]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Borisovich Chubays commented on the progress of privatization, and I think that those who are listening to my brief account of this report will get the main points, but if they are particularly interested in this most important issue, I think they will be able to see Chubays's speech and his answers to questions: by parliamentary decision, they will be shown by Russian television at a time convenient for television viewers. [passage omitted]

A last point: after the break, the Supreme Soviet will start discussing the tense situation in the north Caucasus in connection with the bloody events in Abkhazia. For the time being, parliament has spoken in favor of holding a session behind closed doors, at chairman Khasbulatov's insistence, as was the case with all other discussions of bloody interethnic conflicts that have happened in our country's past and that have been discussed by the Supreme Soviet. But the Commission for National and State Structure and Interethnic Relations insists that the discussion be open and journalists be allowed to attend. [passage omitted]

To all appearances, the parliament is inclined to adopt a pro-Abkhazian stance, although in previous decisions the Russian Supreme Soviet spoke in favor of a peaceful political settlement to the issue. The deputies have now been given a number of decisions as reference material, including a decision by the Commission for National and State Structure and Interethnic Relations that condemns the looting and robbing of civilians by Georgian troops. This decision is sharply critical of the Georgian leadership. It proposes that the government, Supreme Soviet, and Russian president speak out resolutely and take steps in order, first and foremost, to stop the Georgians.

At this session, be it closed or open, a report will be given by Vorobyev, first deputy chairman of the Russian State Committee for Civil Defense, and a co-report by General (Bedov), chairman of the Commission on Repressed and Deported Peoples. [passage omitted]

Chubays Says Vouchers Nearly Ready

OW2509080592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1316 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Chairman of the Russian State Committee for the Management of State Properties, Anatoliy Chubays, said in parliament today [24 September] that the preparation work for the issue of privatization vouchers to the population is practically finished. In his speech on the implementation of the privatization program, he said about four million vouchers are printed every day. In October some 75m [million] vouchers will be printed.

According to Chubays, 5,500 enterprises are to be made privatized as joint-stock companies. The staffs of most of them wish to buy approximately 51% of shares.

Chubays expressed support for the Supreme Economic Council's suggestion that privatization vouchers be used for the purchase of land and municipal property.

The parliament will continue the discussion of Chubays's speech tomorrow morning [25 September], following which it will pass a resolution.

Opposition: Khasbulatov Yeltsin's Main Support

LD2409185192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1652 GMT 24 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—The parliamentary coalition "Russian Unity" integrating the right and left opposition in the Russian legislature said on Thursday [23 September] that a move by some radical deputies demanding Russian Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov's resignation is nothing but a "waste of time," "an attempt to distract (the parliament) from discussing the main issues."

"Ruslan Khasbulatov is the main support for Boris Yeltsin in the parliament," Deputy Mikhail Astafyev said.

Khasbulatov's manoeuvring aims to "take second place in the hierarchy of power," but when the time comes, he will do his best to save this power, Astafyev said. He added that the opposition has so far refrained from raising the question about the speaker but will certainly do so at the congress of Russian people's deputies.

Another deputy Nikolay Pavlov said Russian President Boris Yeltsin's statement made in Cheboksary about his attitude toward the legislature and elections was assessed incorrectly. "The president showed this strange peacefulness because he is not afraid of the law-makers, does not see strength and scrupulousness in them. At the same time, authorities are afraid of new elections," Pavlov said.

His colleague Ilya Konstantinov said the question about the attitude towards the President Yeltsin's policy will be raised by the opposition at the upcoming congress. "We

are doing everything possible in order to draw up the agenda properly," Konstantinov said.

He stressed that both the left and right opposition forces call for urgent anti-crisis measures to stop the production decline and keep society from sliding into poverty. The opposition believes large-scale privatisation should be stopped, while prices and salaries should be balanced at the pre-August 1991 level.

Debates on Abkhazia To Resume

LD2409192792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1538 GMT 24 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—The Russian parliament voted to adjourn closed-door debates on the situation in the northern Caucasus in connection with the events in Abkhazia until Friday [25 September].

The law-makers urged Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the Russian Government to propose a new meeting with Abkhazian and Georgian officials to ensure unconditional ceasefire in Abkhazia.

The parliament also suggested considering the possibility for using Russian peace-keeping troops in Abkhazia to protect civilians and ensure stable operation of industry and transport in the republic.

Deputies Examine Defense, Other Bills

LD2409150992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1413 GMT 24 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—The morning session of the Russian Parliament began on Thursday [24 September] with the repeated examination of the bill on defence. This document, among others, was not signed by the president and returned to parliament for repeated examination.

Yeltsin's remarks dealt with the list of troops which can be used for defence operations, together with Armed Forces, as well as the order of appointment and dismissal of defence minister, his deputies, chief of the general staff and other high-ranking Army officials.

The essence of the president's amendments was that the president should make appointments to the above posts without the legislature's consent. Deputies reached a compromise after repeated voting on this issue: to agree to Yeltsin's proposal but to introduce this order after parliament approves a new Russian Constitution.

Parliament Endorses Yeltsin's Amendments

LD2509110692 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1043 GMT 25 Sep 92

[By *ITAR-TASS* parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow September 25 TASS—After a second hearing the Russian Parliament on Friday [25 September] endorsed a law "on the monetary system in the Russian Federation" returned to the parliament by President Boris Yeltsin. After amendments by the president, the law obliges the Central Bank of Russia not to organize production of banknotes and coins, but to plan the volume of production, transportation and storage, to set up reserve funds. Regulation of the monetary circulation in Russia will be made in line with the current banking legislation and the main provisions of the credit and monetary policy of the Russian Federation.

The Supreme Soviet also passed a law "on making changes and amendments into the labour code." After the president's amendment the law has it that a disciplinary reprimand may be cancelled after less than a year by a body or official who made it at his/its own initiative or at the request of direct employer or a labour collective if the reprimanded did not commit another offence and conducted himself properly.

At the same time the parliament rejected the president's proposal to bar trade unions from disposing of the social insurance fund, financed from the state budget, in conditions of transition to a market economy. Deputies explained their position by the fact that such fundamental amendments to the labour code could not be made into the draft law on social insurance which has yet to be endorsed in the second half of October.

Deputies To Leave for Chechen Talks

LD2409111492 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1031 GMT 24 Sep 92

[By *ITAR-TASS*]

[Text] Moscow September 10 TASS—A group of Russian deputies headed by deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Yuriy Yarov is leaving on Thursday [24 September] for Chechniya at the invitation of parliamentary speaker of the republic Husayn Akhmadov.

According to Yarov, during the talks with the Chechen side he plans to clarify to what degree it is ready to continue the negotiating process, the goal of which is to sign a bilateral agreement between Russia and Chechniya. Our stance at the talks, Yarov said, is that such an agreement should be based on the federative agreement which is a component part of the Russian Constitution.

The Russian delegation plans also to visit enterprises and have meetings with the population to familiarize themselves in detail with the situation in the republic.

New Newspaper for People's Deputies Registered

OW2109195492 Moscow *INTERFAX in English*
1704 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A new newspaper, "Izvestiya Narodnykh Deputatov Rossiskoy Federatsiy" ("News of the People's Deputies of the Russian Federation"), has been registered under the number 01578 and will cover the activities of the Russian Federation's representative bodies of power, to provide information on the life of the country and the world.

Vladimir Lisin, deputy chairman of the Congress of People's Deputies commission on media told an *INTERFAX* correspondent that the new newspaper will be published at the facilities of the "Izvestiya Narodnykh Deputatov RF [Russian Federation]" publishers. He said the reporting staff will consist mainly of journalists from the newspaper "Izvestiya".

The decision to establish the paper was passed at the last session of the Supreme Soviet.

Regional Affairs

Russian, Chechen Delegations Make Progress

MK2409124592 Moscow *NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA*
in Russian 24 Sep 92 p 1

[Natalya Pachegina report under "Negotiations" rubric: "Rutskoy and Groznyy Are Quite Compatible, It Turns Out, Which Is What Chechniya Is Hoping For"]

[Text] Russian Federation Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy's working meeting with a small but representative delegation from the Chechen Republic (Groznyy "paraded" State Secretary Aslambek Akbulatov and Yusup Soslambekov, chairman of the parliamentary foreign affairs committee), held 22 September in the Kremlin, is apparently promising considerable progress in relations between the two sides. And although the satisfaction at the Groznyy meeting is of a specific nature—the question of removing the economic, financial, and air blockade of the republic was resolved favorably, as they saw it there, and, as is accepted between neighbors, there followed invitations to visit Chechniya, and, in the future, a summit-level meeting—Moscow too was pleased with its "tone." From the observations of the Chechen delegation, which brought with it to Moscow its readiness for a "reasonable compromise," the Kremlin—represented by so odious to Chechniya a person as General Rutskoy—has changed greatly. However, Andrey Fedorov, the vice president's adviser for political questions, does not see such swift changes in Russia's strategy in the North Caucasus; he found that the talks with Chechniya, despite their protracted nature, fit very well into the "Russia-Tatarstan-Yakutia-anywhere else" pattern. Proceeding,

no doubt, from the consideration—obvious to Moscow—that Checheniya is still Russian land, the Russian Federation's vice president was accompanied by Viktor Barannikov, Russian minister for national security, Viktor Yerin, from the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, Yuriy Yarov, deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, and Anatoliy Anikeyev, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Commission for the Rehabilitation of Repressed Peoples. The Russian side recognizes the republic's special status, Fedorov said, and is permitting it the freest forms of collaboration with Russia. Therefore the negotiating process between the Russian and Chechen Republic delegations which had taken place in preceding months and which, as became evident, did not satisfy the two sides, must now be reinforced by the activity of Russian and Chechen organs of executive power. The upcoming visit to Grozny by Yuriy Yarov, Russian Federation Supreme Soviet deputy chairman, is also geared to the galvanization of this process. The meeting in the Kremlin has shown, to mutual satisfaction, the sides' interest in coordinating the activity of the relevant organs in Grozny and in Moscow to combat shady financial deals, crime, the proliferation of weapons, and so on. The invitation to Vice President Rutskoy to come to Grozny for the congress of the mountain peoples of the North Caucasus, which was issued by Chechen delegation member Soslambekov, who combines parliamentary activity in Checheniya with the post of chairman of the parliament of the Confederation of Caucasus Mountain Peoples, should also be seen as a sign of special trust.

As Rutskoy's adviser noted, the Chechen delegation has not only demonstrated a realistic attitude in questions relating to political relations between Checheniya and Russia, but also a sober understanding of the geopolitical situation in the North Caucasus. Moscow noted with satisfaction the efforts made by Checheniya, whose parliament has recalled its volunteers from the zone of conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia. Checheniya's concern over alleged instances of the Transcaucasus Military District's transfer of some of its weapons to the Georgian Republic is meeting with understanding in Moscow. Like Russia, Fedorov said, Checheniya is not interested in launching military actions in the Caucasus.

Dudayev Invites Rutskoy To Visit Checheniya

LD2309211892 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1648 GMT 23 Sep 92

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Sharip Yusupov]

[Text] Grozny September 23 (TASS)—President Dzhokhar Dudayev of the Chechen Republic today sent a letter to Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy inviting him to visit the republic from October 3-5.

President Dudayev praised the constructive results of the talks in Moscow between the delegations from the Chechen Republic and the Russian Federation.

Dudayev expressed confidence that the forthcoming meeting and conversation will help deepen mutual understanding and develop bilateral cooperation in the interests of the two peoples.

Organizations Demand Confederation Leader Release

OW2409185992 Moscow *INTERFAX in English*
1550 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Several Karbadino-Balkarian public and political organisations and some of the North Caucasian (Russian) republic's parliamentary deputies have demanded the immediate release of Yuriy Shanibov, President of the Confederation of North Caucasian Peoples. Shanibov was detained on Wednesday [24 September] in the republic's capital, Nalchik, by representatives of the Russian General Prosecutor. Local observers said that he had been accused of kindling international disharmony and had been responsible for illegal activity by the Confederation when it dispatched its volunteers to Abkhazia.

An address made to Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov and Russian General Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov stressed that "news of Shanibov's arrest had agitated the Kabardian and other Caucasian peoples and events could, as a consequence, get out of control. [no close quotation marks as received]

Meanwhile, *INTERFAX* was informed in the press centre of the Kabardian People's Congress that the demonstration on the square outside Nalchik's House of Councils was in its second day. Its participants, who number around 4,000 people, are demanding the immediate release of Shanibov, whose whereabouts are still unknown. Five bus loads of OMON [special purpose militia detachment] (riot police) are standing by on the square.

A Congress representative said that the OMON had blocked off all roads leading to the capital in order to prevent citizens of other towns and rural areas of Kabardino-Balkaria joining the demonstration.

Bashkortostan Demands Broader Powers

OW2409120392 Moscow *INTERFAX in English*
1008 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Bashkortostan, a republic in the Russian Federation, is campaigning for obtaining powers similar to those enjoyed by neighboring Tatarstan, particularly in foreign trade and state development. Chairman of the Bashkortostan parliament Murtaza Rakhimov told President Yeltsin in Moscow September 18. Details of the meeting were published by the Bashkortostan parliament's press service.

The two parties discussed the current negotiations between Bashkortostan and the Russian Federation on the conclusion of a bilateral agreement.

A strong accent was put on the recent meeting in Uralsk between the leaders of Kazakhstan, Tatarstan and Bashkortostan, during which an agreement on the coordination of economic activity was reached.

Article Comments on Gaydar Visit to Tula

PM2309131192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
18 Sep 92 p 2

[Correspondent Nikolay Kireyev report: "To Whom Did Gaydar Offer a Candle?"]

[Text] Tula—Fate saw to it that I should see in the flesh and accompany certain leaders of our former state: Ye. Ligachev, V. Nikonov, and N. Ryzhkov, and lower-ranking officials. No obvious good came from such tours, of course.

What about the new power, then? While it has razed everything else to the ground, it has not in principle betrayed the tradition of official visits. True, some have replaced "contact with the people" by bureaucratic, hidebound discussion. Our esteemed acting head of the Russian Government, Yegor Gaydar, has just flown into Tula from Smolensk. The elite of Tula stood waiting half an hour for him in the main hall of the local "White House." Wherever I looked I spotted the familiar faces of people who used to gather here for oblast party committee plenums. A man in a cassock, Father Vasilii, was perhaps the sole exception.

Yegor Gaydar swept into the hall in the company of several ministers. The assembly heard a spirited lecture by the doctor of economic sciences on the political economy of our time of troubles. He said nothing new, nothing specific—don't yield to the opposition's hysteria, everything is okay, only one engine has died on us. After an hour's political discussion folk spilled out onto the street and no one could work out why so many people had fongathered.

Then everything went into a kaleidoscopic spin. The motorcade tore off to the "Shtamp" plant—formerly a sinister top-secret enterprise producing "Grad" and "Prima" multiple rocket launcher systems. It has now switched completely to producing gas stoves, fire extinguishers, lamps, and primus stoves.... Ye. Gaydar was shown a video about the enterprise and had a lightning tour of some repair shops. Then it was off to "Tulachermet"—one of the first joint-stock companies in Russia—where the episode was repeated in front of the metallurgical workers. For the chosen few there was a conversation in company president A. Pukhov's office.

After lunch there was a bizarre race along the streets of a completely oblivious Tula to the governor's old stamping ground, the "Sazhenets" agricultural firm. All delegations, no matter how insignificant, have been here lately.

The firm has already devised its own protocol and etiquette: In a mock chapel set up opposite the office, the honored guests place votive candles and Father Vasilii, whom we have met before, conducts religious services. The Russian premier also placed a candle there. What was he thinking about as he did so?

While the motorcade was cruising along the country roads en route for the premises of a fruit orchard I called into a local store. The shelves were stacked with produce, like it used to be at the former USSR Exhibition of National Economic Achievements. The sales staff were awaiting the order to start selling and people were anxiously waiting in line. They were waiting until "quite by chance" the head of the government would call into that store and be amazed by the "abundance" on offer.

Clearly taking me for one of the leaders, the weary customers and sales staff asked for permission to begin trading this scarce produce. I am ashamed to say that I gave the order. Beef priced at 84 rubles was snapped up in an instant. It turned out that the entire stock of meat—2 kg—was lying on the counter. Then the motorcade drove up....

Well, I did not understand why all this was going on, who needed it? Not the ordinary people, that is for sure. However, there is a slight difference from the old days. Whereas towards the end of the party regime guests were treated to tea, mineral water, and kvass, now at a lunch guests are treated to Dutch [as published] whiskey and "Stolichnaya" vodka. I do not know what was being offered in exchange for the wining and dining at any particular place, and I do not listen to rumors.

Future of Novaya Zemlya Test Range Examined

PM2309150792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 19 Sep 92 pp 1,2

[Oleg Falichev report: "Novaya Zemlya Testing Range: Two Years of Silence. But What About Nevada?"]

[Excerpts] Novaya Zemlya-Moscow—As already announced, a mixed commission led by Army General P. Grachev, Russian defense minister, and V. Mikhaylov, minister of atomic energy, was at work on Novaya Zemlya 16-17 September.

Novaya Zemlya... A year ago there was more than enough hullabaloo over this place. To be more precise, over the nuclear test range there. Some newspapers eagerly reported fish without scales, bald reindeer, and high radiation levels.... Although the "facts," so to speak, necessitated careful checks, a wave of radiophobia swamped the islands of common sense. All the work at the test ground connected with preparing and carrying out tests was suspended. And Russia unilaterally announced a year's moratorium on nuclear explosions. [passage omitted]

In the past year something else has also become clear: Russia's appeal for a universal ban on nuclear tests has

remained a voice in the wilderness. France alone has made some response to it. While the United States has detonated and is still detonating nuclear weapons. And it is not the only one. The following picture has emerged in the 1985-1992 period: Nevada—98, Mururoa—52, Semipalatinsk—41, Novaya Zemlya—four, Lop Nor (China)—five. In 1992 the United States has already carried out four tests (while China has carried out one).

Why are the Americans continuing testing so doggedly? First, I think, they are less subject to the influence of public opinion than we are. They have developed a test program for many years that is being rigorously implemented and is not very dependent on the vagaries of the current political situation. It performs civil, if you like, economic tasks as well as military tasks. I am referring to the Americans' secret work to develop a thermonuclear capsule—the prototype for a 21st-century nuclear reactor—which cannot be developed without full-scale tests. If they resolve this problem, they will safeguard themselves in the future from power crises for a long time.

Second, there are fairly clear grounds for all the tests carried out in the Pentagon's interests. (Although they certainly do not explain and reveal everything). For instance, at a session of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group, U.S. Defense Minister R. Cheney said the following on this subject: "Nuclear arsenals that undergo tests are more reliable than arsenals that do not."

An unexpected idea occurs to me. Is it the case that, by not testing our nuclear weapons, we now pose a greater threat to the world than the United States? One can hardly agree with that. Especially as both countries have sufficient statistical experience to enable us to avoid accidents and mistakes here. It looks as though this explanation is only needed

"there" for public consumption and to annually extract \$400-450 million for the upkeep of the test range. Which can then quite calmly be spent on purely military programs, SDI, say. God grant that I am mistaken, but there are many indications to the contrary....

How do we look against this backdrop? You get the impression that we are continuing to remain euphoric over the proposals put forward in the past—bold proposals that nonetheless failed to meet with a response.

Army General P. Grachev, Russian defense minister, and the members of the commission heard the opinions voiced by scientific representatives and the command of the test site.

"In this time we have lost many skilled cadres and jeopardized scientific programs," Captain First Rank V. Lepskiy, head of the test site's research unit, thinks. "And it is very hard to repair omissions." [passage omitted]

During the visit to Novaya Zemlya, Army General P. Grachev, Russian defense minister; V. Mikhaylov, Russian minister of atomic energy; and P. Bolakshin, Arkhangelsk Oblast administration head, inquired about the life and living conditions of the archipelago's military and civilian populations. Many problems have been solved on site. In particular, cadre issues and problems pertaining to provision of motorized tractor and aviation equipment. Others will be resolved in the near future.

One last point. In these comments I have voiced my personal opinion regarding the need for the test range. It is up to the country's leadership to decide its real future. One thing is clear: If we want Russia to be a great state, we must think and act in a manner that befits a state.

International Affairs

Bank Chief Protests Russia Dropping Agreements

LD2409211992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0800 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Hetman, chairman of the Central Bank of Ukraine, has protested against the Russian Government's revoking the agreement on trade settlements between the two countries. The agreement was signed on 10 September by Hetman and Gerashchenko, chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, Radio Liberty reports. Speaking at a news conference yesterday in Washington, where he has been attending the annual session of the IMF and World Bank, Hetman pointed out that this step by Russia was aggravating relations and could not facilitate stabilization of the financial situation. Earlier, acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar said that Russia was forced to take this measure because of the sharp deterioration in its financial situation. Ukraine, he said, owed Russia more than all the former Soviet republics.

Kravchuk on Russian Relations, Draft Constitution

OW2409220292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1604 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "All problems in Ukrainian-Russian relations are caused by other structures. The Presidents of Ukraine and Russia have a normal, open relationship corresponding to the responsibility of our two states for security in Europe and the world," Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk told a European Parliament delegation during a meeting with it yesterday.

He said discussion was continuing of the draft for a new Ukrainian constitution which had been given a positive appraisal by international experts. More than 500 suggestions have, according to him, been made to the parliament by the population.

Parliament chairman Ivan Plyushch, who took part in the meeting, advocated more extensive cooperation between the European Parliament and Ukraine. "In addition to criticism Ukraine needs foreign investments," he said. In his opinion, production based on Ukrainian resources and utilizing European technologies will benefit both Europe and Ukraine.

Council of Europe Extends 'Special Guest Status'

LD2409152392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Ukraine now has special guest status at the Council of Europe. This information has been received from that international organization. This gives Ukraine the opportunity to take a practical part in the work of

this authoritative European structure, which currently includes nearly 30 countries. Today our state is also a member of many other international political and economic foundations, in particular the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the International Monetary Fund.

Zlenko Discusses Delegation's Aims at UN

LD2409163392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Ukraine should use the platform of the United Nations to reinforce its international authority. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, leader of our delegation at the 47th session of the UN General Assembly, said that this is the task of the delegation. He believes that our state should occupy its rightful place in the world community, in accordance with its political, economic, and cultural potential. The Ukrainian foreign minister stated that to this end, Ukrainian diplomats will hold meetings with their counterparts from other countries. Special attention will be given to talks with those countries with which Ukraine has not yet managed to establish diplomatic relations.

National Affairs

Measures Adopted To Encourage Crop Sales to State

LD2409224592 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya
Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has adopted a resolution on additional measures to stimulate the procurement of certain types of agricultural produce into state resources in 1992. In particular, agricultural producers selling 1992 harvest sunflower seeds to the state will receive an additional payment of 6,500 rubles per tonne of useful weight. The additional payment amount for animal produce sold to the state for June through September will apply until the end of this year. Tentative levels for purchase prices of grain, corn, and rice have also been fixed.

This stimulation will certainly have a positive effect on the rather acute situation in the agricultural sphere. Apart from socioeconomic factors, there are still important, subjective, and objective complications in agriculture. The lasting drought has virtually stopped the sowing of winter crops in Ukraine's southern oblasts.

Kravchuk Rejects Accusations of Political Leniency

OW2409220492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1605 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a recent meeting with Leonid Kravchuk, members of the Donets Basin miners' strike committee reproached him of excessive political lenience. In particular, they were displeased with the leadership's tolerance for "outbursts of nationalism in the mass media."

Kravchuk replied that, in a law-based state, the president cannot control the independent media. He rejected the strike committee's claim that there had been no official reaction to the "nationalistic speeches" made during the celebration of the first anniversary of Ukraine's independence. He said he had expressed his attitude to the extremist statements made by some of the speakers at the *veche* (popular assembly) in Kiev on August 24 by leaving the meeting.

Lvov Plant Destroys Tanks, Moves to Conversion

LD2409155992 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Summary] The destruction of the first set of T-55 tanks, 21 in all, which began on 18 August 1992 at the Lvov plant for repairs of armored weapons, has been completed according to plan. This was part of the reduction in conventional weapons envisaged for Ukraine by the treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe.

International observers from France and Great Britain praised the organization of the operation. Today, after a group of foreign experts has issued a special statement to verify the destruction of the first batch of T-55 tanks, the dismantling and destruction of the next batch of 55 former fighting machines will begin.

In future, the plant will produce fire engines, heavy tractors for oil and gas exploration, buses, cranes, and tractors for farmers.

Supreme Soviet Issues Decree on Meat Products

LD2509043392 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1404 GMT 21 Sep 92

["Resolution of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet on the Value-Added Tax on Some Meat Products"—UKRINFORM headline]

[Text] [no dateline as received] With the aim of preventing meat resources from being taken outside the borders of Ukraine, preserving these resources, and to avoid a reduction in its consumption by the population, the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet decrees: To set the added-value tax on sales of boiled and liver sausages, brawn, frankfurters, and polony at 10 percent of the taxed turnover.

[Signed] I. Plyushch, head of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, Kiev, 16 September 1992

Tax Revenue Deficit Blamed on Incorrect Pricing

LD2409154992 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Due to incorrect pricing policies by Ukrainian enterprises on the external market, the state coffers were missing \$500 million in the form of taxes in the first half of this year. They received only \$28 million.

Andriy Honcharuk, head of the directorate of the External Economic Relations and Trade Ministry, stated this on the pages of the Ukrainian press. He noted that many firms sell their products abroad for dumping, that is reduced, prices. They do not find their bearings well on Western markets. All this causes large losses to the young Ukrainian State. Andriy Honcharuk emphasized that, in addition, a lot of currency ends up in Western banks following the sale of goods by Ukrainian enterprises.

Cabinet Debates Draft for Economic Policy

OW2409220892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A session of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, expanded to include participation by state advisors and representatives of the parliament, was recently conducted behind closed doors in Kiev; the subject of debate was the draft of the government's plan for economic policy in 1992-93. It is worth remembering that the government did not manage to present its plan to the session of the Supreme Soviet which opened on 15 September; it promised to have the document ready toward the end of the month.

An INTERFAX correspondent in Kiev has learned that the program discussed at the cabinet session stipulated a precise definition of the main provisions earlier adopted by the Supreme Soviet in "On the Bases of Independent Economic Policy."

IF [INTERFAX] Note: "The Bases of Independent Economic Policy" was written up this spring by a group of specialists under the direction of Aleksandr Yemelyanov, an advisor to the president of Ukraine on questions of economic policy.

One of the members of the working group which prepared the program was Viktor Lisitskiy, Deputy to the Plenipotentiary of Ukraine in the Russian Federation. In an appearance on Kiev television, he said that the program envisions privileges for entrepreneurs and incentives for investment and innovation, as well as recommending special privileges for small enterprises involved in the production of consumer goods.

A different point of view on the cabinet's program was given by the parliamentary opposition. Its leaders—

Vyacheslav Chernovil, the co-chairman of the Ukrainian Rukh [Ukraine People's Movement for Perestroika] movement; Lyes Tanyuk, the chairman of the Parliamentary Commission on Culture and National Rebirth; and Vladimir Filyenko, the co-chairman of the New Ukraine party—announced at a Kiev press conference their unanimous belief that the plan for deepening economic reform suggested by Ukrainian prime minister Vitold Fokin would "effectively return the economy of Ukraine to the command-economy system." According to those attending the press conference, the government's new plan was "the latest of six attempts by the cabinet to take economic power in Ukraine into their own hands."

The speakers were highly critical of Fokin's economic program, which envisions, in particular, the subordination of the Ukrainian National Bank and the State Property Committee to the Cabinet of Ministers. In the opinion of Mr. Filyenko, "the Fokin government is simply playing for time so that it can divert state property which is subject to privatization into various commercial structures." The representatives of the opposition are convinced that the Ukrainian parliament does not currently have the capability to form a reform government or to control its activity.

Chernovil also said that 70 groups had already been founded in 23 Ukrainian provinces for the purpose of collecting signatures on a petition calling for a referendum on the re-election of the Ukrainian parliament. The signature-collection effort is planned to last for three months.

Cabinet Allocates Funds for Special Projects

LD2409140992 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] The Ukraine Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has allocated 87 billion rubles [R] from surplus costs of the republican out-of-budget fund for the stabilization of the economy for the granting of financial assistance to oblast state administrations as follows:

Dnepropetrovsk Oblast: R40 million for the construction and reconstruction of facilities in the social sphere and communal utility of the town of Pavlograd; Donetsk Oblast: R40 million for the construction of facilities of the water and sewage utility of the town of Mariupol; Ternopol Oblast: R7 million for the construction and repair to facilities of the water supply and drainage and for the gasification of the village of Shumskoye. In addition to this, R10 million has been allocated to the Odessa Oblast state administration for financing measures relating to the preparation for the heating season in the town of Kiliya; R400,000 to the Transport Ministry for the elaboration of a state program for the development of a network of passage points through the state border of Ukraine; R2 million to the Zaporozhye state administration for the completion of payments for the construction of automatic telephone exchanges in the town of Vasilyevka; R90 million has been allocated for

the payment of completing work relating to the construction of facilities in the social sphere and the gasification of settlements of the Ivano-Frankovsk oblast state administration. Trans-Carpathia oblast will receive R20 million for completing payments relating to the construction of a brick plant in the village of Velikiye Luchki of Mukachevo Rayon.

Sevastopol Official Meets With Naval Officers

LD2409135392 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] A meeting has taken place between Yermakov, the presidential representative of Ukraine in Sevastopol, officers of the organizational group of the Naval Forces of Ukraine, and rear Admiral Kozhin, commander of the Naval Forces of Ukraine. The presidential representative emphasized the complex economic situation in the city. In the words of Yermakov, Ukraine is simply saving Sevastopol from allocating 1.5 billion rubles for the stabilization of the city's economy and freeing the city from the majority of taxes. The presidential representative also condemned the anti-constitutional activity of Kruglov, people's deputy of the Crimea and leader of the Russkiy Sevastopol faction, which is striving for the renewal of the direct subordination of Sevastopol to Moscow.

Leader of Officers' Union Interviewed

LD2409141392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] This is a report of an interview held with Col. Hryhoriy Omelchenko, head of the Union of Officers of Ukraine, who returned from a visit to NATO headquarters in Belgium. Before the beginning of the interview, Col. Omelchenko is congratulated on his recent appointment as leader of one of the subunits of the security service in the struggle against corruption and organized crime in the armed forces.

According to Col. Omelchenko the purpose of the visit was to acquaint the Ukrainian delegation with NATO structures and the current objectives of the organization. Omelchenko believes that Ukraine has all the opportunities to cooperate closely with NATO and confirms that all tactical nuclear weapons have been removed from Ukraine. According to Omelchenko, it would serve Ukraine's interests for the country to be a member of NATO, although it has declared its intention of being a nonaligned state.

Speaking about the role of the Union of Officers of Ukraine [UOU], Omelchenko stated that the organization's activities had become a thorn in the side for many members of the nomenklatura. He said that with assistance from the UOU, scores of generals and people of other rank had been dismissed for corruption and abuse of official position and many are awaiting trial. He added that the UOU remained a public organization despite attempts by various political parties to merge it

with their structures and that only this could safeguard the organization's independence.

Although there are many who call for the organization's dissolution with the argument that it has fulfilled its role, Omelchenko stated that it would only cease its activities once members of the armed forces had reached a high level of patriotism and once it could be considered a truly Ukrainian force.

Commander of Naval Forces Institute Begins Work

LD2409221392 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] The commander of the Institute of Naval Forces of our state, who has just been appointed by the defense minister of Ukraine, has entered upon his duties in Sevastopol. It is Captain First Rank Viktor Makarov, who commanded a submarine in the Northern Fleet for a long time.

As is known, Sevastopol Institute is being created on the basis of two local naval schools in accordance with a new concept of military education in Ukraine. It is planned to start the reforms connected with turning them into an institute from 25 September of this year.

Rukh Great Council Meets in Kiev

LD2409132192 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] The session of the Great Council of Rukh of Ukraine took place on 19 September in Kiev. In particular, the present political situation in Ukraine was discussed and the concept of the People's Movement regarding the development of the state of Ukraine was examined.

Vyacheslav Chornovil, Rukh cochairman, said, particularly touching upon the organization's role, that the coordinating role of Rukh as the largest and the most influential organization has changed its form with the normal process of parties emerging. However, even now Rukh acts as a coordinator of all serious campaigns or measures and by doing so, does not impose its superiority. The participants of the session have approved to convene the fourth All-Ukrainian Assembly of Rukh in Kiev on 4-6 December.

Crimean Council Head Wants Constitution Amended

OW2409193292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1549 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Crimean Supreme Council Chairman Nikolay Bagrov has spoken in favour of amending the republic's constitution in such a way as to avoid any more tension or legal misunderstandings there. The amendment would also have a positive effect on relations between the Crimea and Ukraine, according to Bagrov, who was

speaking at a session of the Crimean parliament which began on Thursday [24 September].

At negotiations with the Crimean parliamentary leadership in June, the Ukrainian delegation demanded that the Crimean constitution be brought into line with the Ukrainian constitution.

Bagrov stated that not to make the proposed amendments "would be to lay all the cards on the table of Ukraine's nationalists who oppose the Crimean state and would cause difficulties for those Ukrainian politicians who supported Crimean sovereignty and the federalisation of Ukraine.

Vigorous protests against the proposed amendments have been made by a group of deputies under the name of "Respublika" (members of the Crimean republican movement). The group described the proposed amendments as a "betrayal of the interests of the Crimean people".

Deputy Chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council Anatoliy Maslov has accused several deputies belonging to "Respublika" of receiving financial remuneration from commercial organisations for their parliamentary duties.

The Crimean Republican Movement is being represented by only 15 out of a total 157 registered deputies at the session.

Opposition Criticizes Fokin's Economic Program

OW2409123992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1009 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The plan for deepening the economic reform, proposed by Prime Minister Vitold Fokin, is actually pushing Ukraine back to the command-and-administer system and represents the Cabinet's new attempt to "seize economic power". Such a statement was made by members of the opposition coalition "Independent Ukraine for Independent Parliament" during a press conference in Kiev.

Among the speakers were RUKH's co-chairman Vyacheslav Chornovil, Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for Culture and National Revival Les Tanyuk and co-chairman of the New Ukraine movement Vladimir Filenko.

The speakers criticized Fokin's programme which envisages the Cabinet's control over the national bank and the committee for state property. The government is just trying to gain time for appropriating the state property which is to be privatized, said Filenko.

Representatives of the opposition said that the Ukrainian parliament is incapable of forming a government of reforms, or controlling its activity. In view of this, the coalition "Independent Ukraine for Independent Parliament" proposed holding early parliamentary elections.

Chernovil said that at present 70 groups in Ukraine's 23 regions are collecting signatures in support of a referendum on early parliamentary elections. The campaign for the referendum was launched on September 21 and will last for three months.

Crimean Tatars Leader on Need for Assistance

AU2509104692 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY
in Ukrainian 11 Sep 92 p 1

[Interview with Rufat Chubarov, deputy chairman of the Crimean Tatars Majlis, by Volodymyr Prytula in Bakhchisaray; date not given: "The Crimean Tatars Believe That the Ukrainian State Will Protect Their Rights"]

[Text] On 13 September, on the eve of the session of Ukraine's Supreme Council, Crimean Tatars will hold meetings, rallies, and picketing in the Crimea. I met with Rufat [as published] Chubarov who is one of the leaders of the Majlis [Crimean Tatars parliament] and its deputy chairman and asked him about the goal of these mass undertakings.

[Chubarov] Last week, representatives of local organs of the Crimean Tatars national self-government held a conference. In the course of this conference, the question connected with the preparation of Ukraine's Law on the Status of the Crimean Tatars People (Nation) in Ukraine was also discussed. During the discussion of this law, quite a number of critical remarks were voiced regarding this bill that had been prepared by commissions of Ukraine's Supreme Council. While generally welcoming the fact that such a legislative document aimed at restoring the rights of the Crimean Tatars is being elaborated, the speakers at the conference pointed out that the bill did not encompass the entire range of issues dealing with the restoration of these rights. That is why, on 13 September, the main topic at the meetings will be precisely a discussion of this draft law. It will be demanded that Ukraine's Supreme Council, first, put this question on the agenda of the new session and, second, that changes and additions proposed by the Majlis and by groups of Crimean Tatars be taken into account.

[Prytula] At the end of September, a scheduled session of the Crimean Supreme Council session will start. A state program for privatization is going to be among the questions that will be discussed there. I know that the attitude to this document on the part of Crimean Tatars is not simple....

[Chubarov] To be more specific, it is negative, but only with regard to this particular document. However, if we

take questions of Privatization in general, our attitude toward them, as elements of the transition to the market, is that of understanding, as toward an objective process. However, speaking about the problem of the Crimean Tatars, I believe that it is clear to everybody that in the course of privatization a mechanism that would take into account and protect the interests of the Crimean Tatars must be provided for. It must apply both to those who have returned [to the Crimea] and to those who cannot return to their homeland. We see that the Supreme Council of the Crimea completely ignores the Crimean Tatars; that is why representatives of the Majlis are now working in commissions of the Ukrainian parliament—in order that Ukraine's Law on Privatization, in its part dealing with the Crimea should take into account the specific characteristics of the peninsula and the situation of the Crimean Tatars.

[Prytula] The Republican Movement of the Crimea [RMC] is presently calling for dissolving the Supreme Council of the autonomous republic. What is the attitude of the Majlis toward these calls?

[Chubarov] We repeatedly stated that the Supreme Council of the Crimea is not legitimate. Furthermore, it must, of course, be disbanded and new elections must be held. However, what the RMC demands and what the Crimean Tatars want are totally different things. The Republican Movement of the Crimea expects that, if new elections are held with the utilization of the old mechanism, it may gain majority and, with the help of the Crimean Supreme Council's new composition, will be able to proclaim the secession of the Crimea from Ukraine. By contrast, we see the Crimea as an autonomy of Crimean Tatars within an independent and democratic Ukraine. Regarding elections, the Majlis believes that it is necessary to make use of such a mechanism of elections as would make it possible to protect the interests of the peninsula's indigenous people who are presently in minority in their own motherland. These may be elections to a two-chamber parliament or else they may be based upon some quota; there are also other variants that might take into account the entire specifics of the present situation in the Crimea. The Crimean Tatars hope that the Ukrainian people will show understanding of our problems and will render us assistance, for we are now facing almost the same problems of maintaining our national identity as the Ukrainian people faced until quite recently. The rallies and other mass measures that will take place in the Crimea on 13 September will deal with precisely this.

Belarus

Shushkevich Orders Accelerated Nuclear Removals

OW2409195592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1557 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarusian National Security Council and head of the parliament, has given instructions to devise a way to remove nuclear missiles from the republic "as soon as possible".

IF [INTERFAX] Note: In accordance with the Lisbon protocol to the treaty on cuts in offensive weapons, strategic nuclear arms should be withdrawn from Belarus within 7 years.

As IF's correspondent learned from government sources, under instructions from Shushkevich experts are working on 4 scenarios for withdrawing 81 mobile missile complexes deployed in Belarus to be carried out within 2, 3, 4 or 5 years (separate calculations are made for every version).

According to experts, the removal of the supermodern solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missiles and other weapons to Russia and financial difficulties connected with it is not the main problem. They believe that the worst problem is to provide employment for the personnel of three divisions of strategic missile forces and for three regiments of strategic aircraft stationed in Belarus. It is believed that most officers and petty officers from these units have no intention of leaving Belarus where they have housing.

Daily Rounds Up Shushkevich on Germany, CIS

MK2309105692 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 23 Sep 92 p 3

[Igor Sinyakevich report under "Belarus" rubric: "We Will Not Be Caught Off Guard. Stanislav Shushkevich on His Visit to Germany, the Congress 'Europe and the World at a Turning Point', Gorbachev, Oil Prices, the Ruble Zone, Nazarbayev's Five Principles, and Nuclear Weapons"]

[Text] A news conference took place 21 September devoted to the results of Stanislav Shushkevich's official 14-19 September visit to Germany. During his visit the head of the Belarusian state met with the president and the ministers of justice, economics, and finance of the FRG. Shushkevich also met with the directors of the Volkswagen automobile company and took part in an international congress entitled "Europe and the World at a Turning Point."

Concerning the bilateral negotiations, Shushkevich remarked that the Belarusian side seeks equal partnership with Germany. The speaker reaffirmed that Belarus

requires intellectual assistance, and that the republic will not spend Western credits on acquiring foodstuffs and consumer goods but intends to invest them in manufacturing processes that can pay for themselves in hard currency. In Shushkevich's words, the German side came up with a proposal—in connection with the fact that the preparation of an all-embracing treaty on cooperation between the two countries is a lengthy process—to ratify the economic treaty between the FRG and the USSR in that part which concerns the Republic. Belarus is studying the possibility of such a move.

Speaking about the congress "Europe and the World at a Turning Point", Stanislav Shushkevich remarked with noticeable irritation that all attention was riveted on Gorbachev. In the words of the head of the republic, Gorbachev "perceives himself as a man for whom the entire Soviet Union is yearning." Shushkevich declared that he deems Gorbachev's election to the chairmanship of the International Green Cross to be an insult. "A person who concealed from the population information on the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Electric Power Station, which resulted in a large number of cases of thyroid cancer among children, has no moral right to occupy such a post."

Replying to journalists' questions, the speaker remarked that "the West frequently renders support not to those political structures within a republic which are essentially democratic but to those which have made a name for themselves and speak about the support of the West."

Touching on economic problems, the head of parliament declared that the liberalization of prices was a mistake and has led to the deterioration of the economic situation. Shushkevich attributed this to the incompleteness of the measures taken. He also noted that the West and public opinion inside the republic are urging the republic's leadership to undertake decisive reforms, but, in his opinion, it is necessary to act circumspectly.

Answering journalists' questions on his attitude toward increased petroleum prices, Shushkevich said that this measure places the republic in an unfavorable economic position and, in his opinion, will not improve the economic situation in the CIS as a whole. He also added: "We would not wish to make a decision which would be detrimental to the economy of the CIS, but we are being persistently urged in this direction."

In response to journalists' request to state his attitude toward a single ruble zone, Shushkevich declared that he is an advocate of Belarus's participation in the ruble area inasmuch as 80 percent of the output of the Republic's enterprises goes to Russia. In his opinion, not all the states of the ruble zone are meeting their commitments and certain countries should be excluded from the zone. Stanislav Shushkevich also rejected opposition charges that Belarus is not ready for the introduction of a national currency. "We will not be caught off guard," the head of the Republic stated.

Replying to a question concerning the five principles named by Nazarbayev for the formation of a confederation, Stanislav Shushkevich designated them a propaganda move. Specifically, in Shushkevich's opinion, a CIS economic court has already been created on Belarus's initiative, while domestic legislation prevents it from joining a defense union.

On the topic of the nuclear weapons located on Belarusian territory, the head of parliament stated: "We are raising the question of reducing the schedule for the withdrawal of the nuclear missiles, and an accord in principle on this has already been achieved." In Shushkevich's words, the new schedules for the withdrawal of the nuclear weapons depend on Russia, but Belarus is proposing three to four years. The speaker spoke of his negative attitude toward the proposals of certain politicians to leave the nuclear weapons in the Republic in order to give it international clout. In the opinion of Stanislav Shushkevich, the aspiration to nonnuclear status enhances Belarus's international prestige.

Shushkevich Adviser Supports Planned Economics

OW2409202092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1558 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Maybe the economic planning committee has insufficiently informed the chairman of the Belarusian parliament about its activity", the prime minister's chief economic adviser Yevsiy Makhlin told IF [INTERFAX]'s correspondent with reference to Stanislav Shushkevich's comments on the work of the committee.

IF Note: In an exclusive interview for IF the chairman of the Belarusian parliament Stanislav Shushkevich spoke in favor of reintroducing elements of planned economy. "A structure capable of putting the state on the right road already exists in Belarus; it's the national economy and planning committee. So far we haven't used it properly," the parliament's chairman pointed out.

The prime minister's adviser shares Shushkevich's view as to the need to work out a general and detailed plan for economic development in Belarus "for several years ahead, taking into account political and economic shifts eventually taking place."

However, said Makhlin, economic plans have always existed, with changes and amendments based on new realities introduced to them continually. Without this economic prognostication is impossible, said Makhlin.

"In the current political and economic circumstances we must use planned provisions more boldly and be guided by them in our work less rigidly than in the past", the chief economic adviser said.

Program Formulated for Officers' Return

PM2409114792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 19 Sep 92 p 2

[RIA report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Some 2,000 Officers Will Return Home This Year. Then Another 2,500"]

[Text] Minsk—The Belarusian Defense Ministry has formulated a program for the progressive return to the republic of Belarusian officers serving outside the republic who want to return home. Colonel Ivan Zubko, chief of the Belarusian Defense Ministry Cadre Directorate, said that this year the Republic's Armed Forces will accept roughly 2,000 officers. Another 2,500 servicemen will return home during the next two years.

Of the 40,000 Belarusian officers currently serving outside Belarus, 9,000 have already applied to return home, Ivan Zubko said.

Official Examines Russian Border Issues

OW2409211392 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1732 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Interview with Yevgeniy Bocharov, chief of the Council of Ministers main guard department, by Vyacheslav Zenkovich; place and date not given; from the "Problems & Opinions" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Correspondent: Belarus and Russia are gearing up for establishing full-fledged state border with the Baltic Republics. What has already been done in this regard?

Bocharov: Presently, conformable agencies in our republic are involved in demilitarizing the border, verifying its outline on the terrain, coordinating it with the governments of Latvia and Lithuania. It's a time-consuming and painstaking effort.

As far as our Department is concerned, we are preparing to assume upon ourselves the responsibility for its protection. To effect this, we are setting up two more border guard units, totally about 2,500 strong, posting them in the towns of Smorgon and Novopolotsk.

Q: It would be expensive for Belarus to realize all this...

A: According to our preliminary estimates, Belarus will have to spend nearly 700 mn [million] rubles for establishing a state border with the Baltic republics. It's a major expense for the republic, considering that in contrast to Russia we are not going to erect any complex engineer facilities or put up any expensive ultra-modern border installations.

At the same time, Belarus' expenses for setting up its national border are incomparably smaller than those Russia has to take setting up its own border with the Baltic states. Judge for yourself, on the same stretch of its 600-kilometer border with the Baltic republics, which

has the same length as that of Belarus, Russian intends to maintain four border guard units with the total strength of 8000 people. The Russian government is allocating for this 5 bn [billion] rubles this year, and it is going to slate the same amount in 1993. Therefore, the "cost" of one kilometer of the border with the Baltic states for Russia will amount to 8,500 rubles, while Belarus will be spending just 2,700 rubles. One kilometer of the Russian-Baltic border will be monitored by 15-16 Russian border guards, whereas Belarus will keep there only four guards. The Lithuanian government is earmarking one billion rubles for setting up its border with Belarus, therefore, the cost of one kilometer of state border for Lithuania will comprise 2,200 rubles.

Q: According to the press reports, there is an agreement between Russia and Belarus which entitles Belarus to 500 mn rubles in terms of Russia's assistance to the republic for the purpose of setting up its national borders. How is this aid being realized?

A: There is, indeed, such an agreement between the two countries. However, Russia's aid remains on paper only. Frankly speaking, we no longer hope to receive any of this money.

Q: Are you considering possibilities of setting up state borders with Russia and Ukraine?

A: I am not aware of any plans to set up a state border with Russia. As regards Ukraine, the Belarusian Council of Ministers did receive a proposal of the Ukrainian government to perform demilitarization and determine the demarcation of the state border between the two republics. In my opinion, even if the Belarusian government acquiesces in this proposal, our border lines would not be "fortified" impregnably. I would expect that the allocations for safeguarding this border would be the same as for maintaining the border with the Baltic republics.

Q: Do you mean to say that in spite of border guard posts and armed border guard patrol detachments, our borders with the Baltic republics and Ukraine will remain "transparent" to a certain extent? Would it be possible to violate them?

A: I don't think it should be our objective to catch every border crosser by all means. It's high time we abandoned the views as regards border protection which were instilled in us by the former totalitarian system. Just to corroborate my ideas, I would like to offer you the following fact: nearly 700 people have been apprehended this year when they attempted to illegally cross the Belarusian state border. At the same time, as a result of checking their identity it was established that none of them was a spy or a saboteur. I want to assure you that with the present-day system of mass transit, genuine spies and saboteurs will never risk their lives trying to penetrate into the territory of another country when they would have to overcome special obstacles, with border guards' weapons trained on them. I would want you to understand me correctly, I am not calling you to stop protecting our borders—it would be too soon to discuss

this. I just believe that the perceptions of how the borders of the Soviet Union need to be safeguarded prompted by the "iron curtain" policy have considerably outdated and are ultimately unacceptable for independent Belarus which is seeking to establish itself as a neutral state.

Q: What is the main problem in the establishment of the national border guard troops?

A: Finances. We have been allocated merely 260 mn rubles. Owing to a number of objective reasons, however, we had to spend the last million several days ago. In my opinion, this wouldn't have happened if it were not for the agency variance. Sometimes, the situation is ultimately absurd. The state budget structure—ministry of defense is selling military materiel to the other state budget structure, which is the Main Border Guard Department. In fact, it appears that the state is engaged in trading operations with itself. Why couldn't all this materiel be transferred to us free? I am convinced that it should be so.

Q: How are you going to address the personnel issue?

A: I believe that in the near future Belarus would be able to provide itself with enough well-trained border specialists. In addition, we managed to return back to the republic 1400 border guards—our compatriots there were posted on tours of duty in various troubled areas in the CIS. Four hundred Belarusians are still posted in several Central Asian regions where the situation is critical to the extent that should we pull back our boys, the border there will become absolutely unprotected, and anyone would be able to cross it even in a tank.

Yet, beyond a shadow of a doubt, sooner or later all of these 400 border guards will come back home.

Border Guard Delimiting Baltic Frontiers

WS2309131792 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian
0804 18 Sep 92

[Text] "I believe that the ideas of the former USSR border defense were dictated by the "iron curtain" policy. That is why they have become obsolete and are unacceptable for Belarus, which supports the ideas of neutrality", Major General Yevgeniy Bocharov, head of Chief Administration of Border Guards at the Belarus Council of Ministers, told the local newspaper "ZVIAZDA".

He reported that the delimitation of the borders with Latvia and Lithuania is being actively carried out. It includes a more precise regional definition of borders and coordination with the local administrations.

At the same time, Belarusian border guards are ready to take state borders under their control. With this purpose, two new border detachments of 2,500 people are being formed.

General Bocharov said that Belarus will have to allot about 700 million rubles to delimit its borders with

Latvia and Lithuania. But Belarus isn't going to install complicated alarm equipment or set up expensive engineering services. He indicated that state allocations for these purposes are considerably less than those of Russia, which is actively involved in the process of its border delimitation with Latvia and Lithuania.

The general stated that he doesn't know anything about the plans of border delimitation with Russia. As for Ukraine, its government has addressed the Belarus Council of Ministers concerning the delimitation and demarcation of their border. Bocharov is sure that if the answer is positive, the border with Ukraine won't look like an "iron wall". Its maintenance won't be more expensive than the maintenance of the border with the Baltic states.

Yevgeniy Bocharov is convinced that the task of border guards is not to catch each border violator. He indicated that 700 people were detained this year when they illegally crossed Belarus borders. But there were no spies among those detained. He added that spies now have legal and safer ways to get to Belarus. The general announced that Belarus will be able to completely control its borders with highly trained border guards.

Government Reviews Foreign Trade Legislation

OW2509005292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1726 GMT 24 Sep 92

[From the 25 September "Trade & Investment" feature; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text]

New Taxes on Foreign Exchange Revenues

The Belarusian government is working on changes in tax laws and rules for provisions to the republic's foreign exchange reserves. In particular, it has suggested that, beginning on January 1, 1993, the foreign exchange revenues of exporters be taxed at the rate of 10% of contract value less transportation expenses, with the taxes payable in foreign exchange.

Exporters would also be required to sell 20% of foreign exchange earnings to the state currency fund at the exchange rate quoted by the National Bank.

If the new rules are adopted, exporters who fail to pay taxes within a month of the date of transfer of revenues to their accounts will have to pay penalties amounting to 100% of the sum overdue.

Foreigners Permitted To Import and Export Through Middlemen

A ruling by the Belarusian government, entitled "On Improving External Economic Activities", permits foreign legal entities to engage in export and import transactions in Belarus, making payments in the local currency through appropriately opened accounts. The

document says, however, that Belarusian entities involved in foreign trade should act as intermediaries for the foreign entities.

Controls Imposed on Barter of Critical Products

The Belarusian government has drawn up a list of goods which may be bartered only after permission to do so has been obtained from a specially appointed government commission. The list includes inorganic chemicals, precious and rare-earth metals, organic compounds, mineral fertilizers, non-ferrous metals and products, oil products, timber and lumber, textile products, and iron and steel products.

Ceilings Set for Export of Goods Subject to Licensing

The Belarusian Ministry of Agriculture and Food has established quotas for the export of products subject to licensing in the rest of 1992:

- potassium fertilizers—800,000 tons (barter);
- nitrogenous fertilizers—168,000 tons (barter);
- ginned flax—4,000 tons;
- edible animal fats—2,000 tons;
- edible salt—10,000 tons.

Fertilizer prices in the world market fell by at least a fifth in first half of 1992 because of uncoordinated activities undertaken by Belarusian suppliers, INTERFAX [IF] was told in the foreign trade association Belagroyntorg. The government's move to impose quotas on barter deals for some products, including fertilizers, could help get exports under control.

IF's note. In the first eight months of 1992, Belarus exported 117,000 tons of nitrogenous fertilizers, of which over 48,000 tons to Yugoslavia and 67,000 tons to Poland.

Fuel Reserves Down; Colder Winter Forecast

WS2309131692 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian
1723 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] "This year's winter in the Republic is going to be colder than the previous one," Belarus Vice Premier Nikolay Kostikov told a BELINFORM correspondent. "Our fuel reserves are 30 percent lower than last year, and unless 350,000 more tonnes of fuel are provided, hard times await us." According to Kostikov, this year's preparations for winter were badly affected by Russia's freeing of oil prices. In addition, a Russian Government spokesman announced reductions in oil supplies from the Russian Federation.

"If previously we were guaranteed 17 million tonnes of oil, next year's quota constitutes only 11 million tonnes," Kostikov indicated, "whereas Belarus requires 24 million tonnes annually. This means that the shortage

will be compensated for by buying oil in other regions or concluding direct deals with oil-producing regions of the Russian Federation."

According to the vice premier, the government sees a solution to the situation via the reduction of power-consuming technologies, and even the shutdown of some of the enterprises. It's no secret that from 20 to 40 percent of fuel is wasted in the Republic. It is time to introduce new power-saving technologies, although "this is a painstaking and costly process," says Kostikov. "In the meantime, we shall be forced to raise tariffs on energy resources from 1.85 to 15 rubles. However, even these measures cannot remove subsidies from the Republic's public utilities and agriculture." Kostikov also said that enterprises should save fuel oil by burning more gas, which is still not in short supply.

Defense Ministry Transferring Land to State

WS2309131592 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian
1723 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] About 20,000 hectares of former proving grounds, testing areas, and airfields are being transferred to the state by the Belarus Defense Ministry, in response to the demands to return "military" lands to the farmers, put forward at the Belarus Peasants Party congress last summer.

The release of areas formerly used for military living quarters, warehouses, equipment depots, and other premises after the Belarus Army began to reduce and reorganize itself, is proceeding strictly according to the schedule set by the Defense Ministry, a BELINFORM correspondent was told at Defense Ministry headquarters. The transfer is hampered by the selective policies of the local governments, who are in no hurry to take over thousands of hectares of land from the Army, limiting themselves only to taking over "convenient" lands, adjoining the populated areas. At the same time, there are cases of forceful appropriation by local executive councils of strips of land still needed by the military. Such illegal actions are only a small token of the "wild" privatization flourishing in the Republic due to the lack of appropriate legislation on the subject.

Compensation Sought for Chernobyl Losses

WS2409131592 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian
0804 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Ivan Smolyar, chairman of a parliamentary commission on problems connected with the Chernobyl disaster, declared at a news conference at the Belarus Supreme Soviet that Ukraine, Russia, and Kazakhstan, as successors of the USSR Ministry of Atomic Industry, should compensate Belarus for its losses in accordance with the value received. He noted that under international law, no clauses are appropriate for this unique case. Lawyers are reluctantly working out the guidelines for pleading guilty and for subsequent compensation payments.

The deputy's conclusions are based on the extremely complicated financial situation of the state, which is trying to overcome the disaster on its own. Russia is the only country that voluntarily allotted 7 billion rubles for this purpose. None of other republics are helping Belarus. According to Ivan Smolyar, in Belarus one can witness the worst variant of the prognosis on the consequences of Chernobyl. Now the state must tackle two problems. The first is to protect people's health and the second is to learn to struggle with this disaster. Unfortunately, financial resources are poor. The program on recovery from the consequences of Chernobyl requires 49 billion rubles a year. The sum allotted for this program, including Russia's financial support, constitutes only 32.6 billion rubles.

Moldova

Russian Airborne Regiment Withdrawal on Schedule

AU2309202992 Bucharest ROMPRES in English
1810 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Chisinau (ROMPRES) 23/9/1992—The withdrawal from the territory of the Republic of Moldova of the Russian 330d Airborne Regiment, headed by Colonel Lebed, younger brother of the Russian 14th Army commander General Lebed, and stipulated by an agreement between the Republic of Moldova and Russia, is proceeding normally, without incidents, according to the schedule—say military sources. The new station of the Russian regiment will be the town of Abakan, in Kazakhstan.

The first part of the regiment has already left the Republic of Moldova's capital city Chisinau. The greater part of the soldiers are already in Abakan, only about 120 conscripts are left in Chisinau besides the officers.

The second part of the regiment will carry away mainly its weaponry and equipment. The agreement stipulates that all the ammunition is to be left in Chisinau and the weaponry divided equally between the two sides.

Some of the officers and noncommissioned officers have decided to stay in Moldova, to work within the new brigade of motorized infantry of the Republic of Moldova's national Army, created to replace the Russian 330d Airborne.

14th Army Officers Appeal to Grachev

PM2409142992 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 22 Sep 92 p 2

[Appeal by officers of Russian 14th Combined Arms Army to Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense: "Fire Not Yet Extinguished"]

[Text] Comrade Army General! We officers of the 14th Combined Arms Guards' Army are forced by the situation which is taking shape today around the Army in the Dniester Region to appeal to you. The chief event of recent weeks was undoubtedly the cessation of combat

operations between the opposing Moldovan and Dniester sides. A process of planned combat training activity by the Army's units is getting under way.

At the same time the actual situation remains complex. Shots and explosions still ring out, people, including servicemen, are being killed by mines, and the crime situation has been sharply exacerbated in the region where units are stationed. There is ongoing persistent exaggeration of various kinds of rumors about the fate of the 14th Army and, above all, about its withdrawal to Russian territory in the very near future. We have repeatedly asked for elucidation of these questions, which are extremely important to every officer and his family, including in our open letter to Yeltsin on 14 July this year, but have received no reply.

Meanwhile, Moldovan, Romanian, Western, and even certain Russian mass media continue to speak of decisions on the withdrawal or disbandment of our Army, which were supposedly reached at the highest level, particularly at the recent meeting between Presidents Yeltsin and Snegur. We perceive the handover of the 300th Airborne Troops Regiment to Moldova, the rumors of an end to funding of housing construction for the 14th Army, and the bringing forward of deadlines for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany, Poland, and the Baltic region as confirmation of the possibility of such a version of the development of events.

Snegur is already openly proposing to our Army's officers who have housing that they transfer to service in the Moldovan Armed Forces (this after the fratricidal war whose fire has not yet been extinguished). All this cannot fail to concern the officer personnel, it disturbs collectives, creates an unhealthy atmosphere in them and also in officers' families, fosters a valid sense of alarm and uncertainty about the future, and inevitably has a negative effect on the state of combat readiness, military discipline, morale, and the psychological atmosphere among officers. At the same time the population (and 45 percent of the Army's officers belong to it) and the people of the Dniester Region still see the 14th Army as the sole guarantor of peace and security in the region and perceive the fact that it is not being withdrawn as support from Russia.

We accept that the Army will have to be withdrawn at some time. But believe us, who are here, that in the present situation people would perceive such an attempt as a tragedy and a betrayal both on our part and on Russia's part and that it would lead to nothing but a new and more serious spiral of war and a seizure of the Army's weapons and combat hardware. It cannot be ruled out that in that case weapons would be turned against Russian servicemen and their families by both opposing sides.

Foreseeing possible political games over the 14th Army and having certain grounds for this, the officer collectives once again urgently beg you to elucidate the Army's fate and prospects and all related questions which we

consider we have a right to ask. Above all, who will protect our families and children in the event of the Army's withdrawal and the resumption of the war in the Dniester region, and who will give us a roof over our heads in a new place of service? We ask you to understand us correctly—we military people do not evade difficulties. But it seems fair to us that people be made entirely clear about what awaits their families, not only today but in future service and life, and that this is done for us by our minister.

With sincere respect,

[signed] Officers of the 14th Combined Arms Guards' Army of the Russian Federation.

Dniester President Calls for Confederate State

LD2509085492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 2000 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Igor Smirnov, leader of the Dniester region, called for building a confederate state in Moldova, to include the Dniester and Gagauz regions, in an interview for MOLODEZH MOLDOVY. He believes that local self-government bodies should occupy priority positions. Smirnov favors repairing relations with Moldova. He said that during his recent meeting with Moldovan Vice Prime Minister Valentin Kunev that the Moldovan side was handed proposals for jointly overcoming economic problems. Smirnov expressed readiness on the part of his republic to begin a dialogue on the further settlement of conflict by political means.

'Sources' Report Chisinau, Gagauz Consultations

OW2209192392 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1629 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On the threshold of the summit in Bishkek Moldova's leadership stepped up its efforts to resolve problems connected with the country's state structure. As IF [INTERFAX]'s correspondent learned from confidential sources close to Moldova's leadership, the past few days saw active consultations between Chisinau officials and the leaders of the self-proclaimed Gagauz republic in Moldova's south.

According to the sources, on Tuesday, at another round of consultations in which the chairman of the Gagauz parliament Mikhail Kendigelian took part, "the level of mutually acceptable compromises was in principle determined". This involves the plans to establish in Moldova's south a self-governed Gagauz territory whose status Chisinau will officially recognize, if the Gagauz give up their demands that Moldova be turned into a federation, and that it recognize their independence.

President Mircea Snegur is expected to meet with a Gagauz delegation on Saturday.

IF Note: During his recent tour of Moldova's southern areas the President conferred with the authorities of Kamrat and Chadyr-Lung Districts. Under discussion was a range of measures designed to ensure the rights of ethnic minorities in Moldova. M. Snegur asked the Gagauz authorities to impose till October 1 a moratorium on their parliament's decision to abolish local government bodies (backed by Chisinau). President Snegur voiced concern about the large number of firearms kept by the Gagauz population, and about the Gagauz leaders' statements that they are ready to defend their republic arms in hand. M. Snegur called for disbanding and disarming the local volunteer units, since Moldova has already done so, and since it has no intention of attacking its southern areas. For his part M. Kendigelian suggested that the President should convene Moldova's parliament for a session to consider "the ways to ensure peaceful coexistence between the three republics: Moldovan, Trans-Dniester and Gagauz".

Dniester Denies Sending Volunteers to Abkhazia

*LD2209160292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1454 GMT 22 Sep 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau September 22 TASS—Valeriy Litskay, a leader of the non-recognized by Moldova Dniester Republic, denied the press reports saying that volunteers from the Dniester region are allegedly taking part in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. "Neither the leadership, nor public and other organisations of the Dniester region sent its volunteers to Abkhazia," Litskay told ITAR-TASS today. At the same time Valeriy Litskay did not exclude that individual "soldiers of fortune" from the Dniester region could really come to Abkhazia calling themselves volunteers.

"We believe that it is impossible to settle by force this conflict or other controversial issues. We got convinced from our own experience that the only existing way to settle conflicts is to sit at the negotiating table," Valeriy Litskay pointed out.

Tighina Gunfire Continues; Dialogue Urged

*AU2309202192 Bucharest ROMPRES in English
1503 GMT 23 Sep 92*

[Text] Tighina, ROMPRES, 23/9/1992—For several nights now fire has been heard in Tighina again. According to the head of the Local Commander's Office Colonel Jdanena [name as received], provocations are not to be excluded given the fact that the town residents handed over only eight rifles, continuing to hold at least 200 weapons. The Russian officer stated for an urgent political dialogue between the legal power of the republic and the leaders in Tiraspol to establish the legal status of Trans-Dniester and of the town of Tighina in particular.

All the more so as reactionary forces might employ any delay in this process for destructive purposes, Colonel Jdanena, quoted by MOLDOVA-PRES, points out.

Dniester Parliament Supports UN Rights Policy

*OW2209220292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1818 GMT 22 Sep 92*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Trans-Dniester Moldovan Parliament continued its work in session Tuesday in Tiraspol. The session passed a resolution on the Trans-Dniester Moldovan Republic's (TMR) relations to international agreements and other human rights acts. The document contains a notice for the United Nations stating TMR's readiness to sign and ratify a series of UN human rights documents and, regardless of the republic's membership status, to consider already existing acts relating to human rights effective in TMR territory.

The session also endorsed a statement relating to accounts of preparations for renewed military action to be taken by Moldova against TMR. The Trans-Dniester Parliament announced its efforts not to allow further bloodshed and made assurances that TMR would never be the first to break the truce. The statement includes an appeal to the Moldovan Parliament that it make analogous assurances.

Report Alleges Chisinau Housing Illegalities

*PM2309091192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
17 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2*

[Svetlana Gamova report: "Prosecutor's Office Protests 390 Decisions by Chisinau City Authorities"]

[Text] The Chisinau city authorities have used the city coffers for their own ends. That was the conclusion reached by the Moldovan Prosecutor's Office after conducting an investigation.

The Prosecutor's Office Collegium noted that "City Hall and its subordinate structures have participated in the contravention of legislation in their capacity as founder members of several of trade and economic enterprises, transferring about 13 million rubles from the city budget into these enterprises' incorporation accounts."

The capital's Prosecutor's Office has protested 390 decisions, but the city authorities have not yet reacted. Plots for constructing individual houses within the city limits have been distributed with impunity, in contravention of the law. People's deputies and "certain people from the highest echelon of power", who have apartments, turned out to be among the lucky owners of these plots. Ordinary people waiting in line for state housing were squeezed by ranking officials on the basis of government and state chancellery decisions and petitions. A total of 567 apartments intended for citizens were turned into hostels and hotels at a stroke of functionaries' pens.

Another 200 apartments from the same city housing stock were leased out to cooperatives and other commercial structures.

City property is going under the hammer, but low-income citizens are unable to take part in the clearance sale. They should not rely on getting new accommodations in the near future, since as a result of the crisis that has hit Moldova's construction sector, the construction of high-rise housing in Chisinau has been suspended.

As regards the offenses committed by the city authorities in the distribution of housing, the republic's Prosecutor's Office, having recorded the facts, limited itself to a decision "obliging City Hall to comply strictly with legislation and to coordinate all its activities with the Prosecutor's Office."

Snegur Issues Decree on Heritage Preservation

*AU2309200592 Bucharest ROMPRES in English
1832 GMT 23 Sep 92*

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 23/9/1992—A decree of president of the Republic of Moldova Mircea Snegur was released in Chisinau, stipulating measures to preserve the national heritage and provide for the social security of the men of culture in the context of the transition to a market economy.

According to MOLDOVA-PRES the decree stipulates reintroduction in the national heritage of the cultural and religious valuables that were estranged over 1812-1990, subsidizing of the culture and art institutions, Moldova's integration into the international culture organizations. It also stipulates the parliament's discussing a package of laws on the protection and furthering of culture.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev, Mitterrand Discuss Relations

LD2409124292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1012 GMT 24 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergei Batyrov and Yuri Lopatin and KAZTAG special correspondent Amalgendiy Akhmetlimov]

[Text] Paris September 24 TASS—"France attaches great importance to the promotion of relations with Kazakhstan. We regard them as an example of international solidarity so badly needed by the world today," French President Francois Mitterrand said on Wednesday during a meeting with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev currently paying an official visit to France.

Stressing the historical significance of his trip to France, the first such visit after Kazakhstan became independent, Nazarbayev noted the importance of the Paris Charter, which he signed on Wednesday, and the fact that Kazakhstan had thereby assumed all the commitments, stemming from its participation in the CSCE process. He believes the Kazakh-French treaty, signed during the meeting, is also of great importance, because it opens up broad vistas for the promotion of all-round cooperation between the two countries.

Nazarbayev laid special accent on economic cooperation. "Kazakhstan, which has huge natural resources, and France, which possesses the most up-to-date technology, may, if they pool their efforts, contribute to a considerable enhancement of our people's living standards," he stressed.

"The treaty signed by France and Kazakhstan," Nazarbayev stressed during a press conference held here on Wednesday evening, "ushers in an absolutely new stage in our relations, lays the foundation for broad business relations." The president noted some areas of cooperation of particular interest for the Kazakh side, including the training of personnel and reorganisation of the banking system, aid in privatising the economy, military development, space research and nuclear-power engineering.

Nazarbayev was asked about priorities in the Kazakh foreign policy. Replying to ITAR-TASS, he noted that his country regarded itself hinged to the CSCE process, because it was a legal successor of the USSR. Due to its geopolitical location, Kazakhstan believes its international role is primarily to link the two continents. The Kazakhs are Muslims and their attraction to the Islamic world is natural. "But this does not mean that we plan to heel towards Islam," Nazarbayev stressed. "We shall conduct a civilised policy and cultivate civilised, mutually profitable political and economic relations with all countries, irrespective of whether they are Asian or European," he stated. Speaking about relations among countries of the former USSR, he recalled that independent Kazakhstan had signed its first international treaty

with Russia. Noting that the people of Kazakhstan were historically and geographically linked with the people of Russia, Nazarbayev stressed the priority of good and lasting relations with their northern neighbour.

Speaking at a dinner, given in honour of the distinguished guest, Mitterrand said that France regarded Kazakhstan as the most important factor of stability in Central Asia, as a country, which will eventually play an important role in that region of the world. In his opinion, Kazakhstan could make a substantial contribution to the strengthening of world peace. France regards Kazakhstan, which is hemmed in between Russia, China and the Muslim world, as its most important partner. Stressing the importance of the treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance, signed between the two countries, he said that Paris and Alma-Ata would devote much attention to interaction in the political and military spheres for the sake of strengthening security in Europe and throughout the world. The French president believes that the most favourable prospects were now opening up for commercial and economic cooperation between the two countries.

"We have proclaimed ourselves to be supporters of an open society and we want Kazakhstan to be integrated into the world economy as quickly as possible. We are interested in mutually profitable cooperation with all potential partners," President Nazarbayev said in his reply speech.

Deputy Minister on Tajik-Afghan Border Decision

OW2309214292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1622 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Taktar Aubakirov, Kazakhstan's first deputy defense minister, has called the joint decision by the presidents of Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan to deploy additional forces along the southern border of Tajikistan "timely and correct." In an interview with INTERFAX, he emphasized that "people fear that violence and extremism will spread" from troubled areas.

Aubakirov also advised that Kazakhstan is now busy with the formation of its own "non-national" army capable of defending not only Kazakhstan, but also "the countries with which the republic has signed the Treaty on Collective Security."

He further noted that many officers from Russia and other sovereign states are willing to serve in this army, so long as Kazakhstan "efficiently and steadfastly fulfils its responsibilities."

Cabinet Decides to Increase Bread, Flour Prices

LD2509101992 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian
1025 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Excerpts] [No dateline as received] In connection with the rise in prices for grain from the 1992 harvest the Cabinet of Ministers has adopted a decision in accordance with which bread, bakery products, and all varieties of flour marketed in exchange for baked bread, millet and semolina made from grain from state resources will be sold for an average of five times the current retail price approved by previous government decisions. [passage omitted]

The following goods are to be added to the government approved list of essentials on which 10 percent VAT [value-added tax] is payable: bread and bakery goods, all varieties of flour sold to the population in exchange for baked bread, millet, semolina and pasta. [passage omitted]

In order to offer state support to poor categories of pensioners in conditions of price deregulation the Cabinet of Ministers has adopted a decision in accordance with which extraordinary payments of 500 rubles per month will be made October to December to unemployed pensioners whose pensions, when recalculated on the basis of the decree by the president of the republic of 18 March, 1992 "on increasing pensions previously set," and other pensions set before 1 October, 1992, are less than twice the minimum old age pension. Moreover, the total of the sum of the pension and the extraordinary payment cannot be in excess of twice the minimum old-age pension. [passage omitted]

Supreme Soviet Chairman, Kalmykia Official Meet

LD2509130292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0900 GMT 25 Sep 92

A meeting between Kazakhstan Supreme Soviet Chairman Serikbolsyn Abdildin and Vladimir Basanov, head of Kalmykia's Parliament, who has arrived in the republic, took place in Alma-Ata today. In the course of the conversation, questions were discussed of bilateral cooperation in various spheres and in particular, between the legislative bodies. The mutual striving was expressed to strengthen and develop mutually advantageous economic and cultural contacts, to revive the traditional historical ties between the people of Kazakhstan and Kalmykia, KAZTAG notes.

Problems Force Suspension of Dushanbe Flights

PM2409115192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 19 Sep 92 p 2

[Report by Anatoliy Ladin under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Flights to Dushanbe Canceled. Harder And Harder for Refugees To Leave"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—As I flew out of Dushanbe 15 September I learned that I was taking this month's last flight

from Dushanbe to Alma-Ata. As of the end of September Alma-Ata is suspending flights to the Tajik capital.

I asked Igor Drachev, deputy head of the Kazakh Civil Aviation Directorate, to comment on this decision, reminding him immediately that for refugees leaving Tajikistan today the route to Alma-Ata—from where they then travel to other CIS states—is an extremely important one.

"We have suspended the flights for two reasons," Drachev said. "First, it was unsafe for our crews to stay at Dushanbe Airport. There are cases of armed individuals, not members of law-enforcement bodies, entering aircraft cabins and interrogating crews, accompanying these investigations with menaces. Pilots and other crew members are refusing to fly to Dushanbe.

"The second reason is the lack of sufficient fuel stocks in Dushanbe. We refuel their aircraft, but they have no fuel, they tell us. So we have to make a stopover to refuel at other airports."

Scope, Problems of Civil Aviation Sector Noted

PM2509081392 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Report by A. Svyazin; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [V. Segeidik, head of the Kazakh Civil Aviation Directorate] An interstate Civil Aviation Committee has been set up and its functions and aims have been defined. The republics have given it the appropriate powers.

[Svyazin] Along with Russia, Kazakhstan played one of the most active roles in setting up the CIS' first serious interstate governmental body. That's because it has plenty to lose. Kazakhstan's Civil Aviation Directorate has 20 large airports and about 1,000 aircraft and helicopters. Not only that, it's managing to buy more of them. Kazakhstan's "Aeroflot" is also unique in that it hasn't gone on strike since 1924. As far as fuel is concerned, they've got enough of their own kerosene. Although Russia and Turkmenistan sometimes let it down with deliveries of aviation fuel, Kazakhstan, strange as this may seem, at first glance, has the highest percentage of on-time departures. As for ticket prices, the head of the Kazakh Civil Aviation Directorate has assured passengers that they won't seem so horrendous before too long.

Communist Party Holds Congress in Alma-Ata

LD2409222892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1100 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] A Congress of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, described as the 20th by its delegates, has been held in Alma-Ata. The congress discussed the report of the Central Committee and corrections to its statutes and program statement. The delegates expressed their attitudes toward the new draft constitution of the

republic, now under discussion. In their opinion, individual provisions in it concerning the interests of the whole multiethnic population of Kazakhstan should be determined by a universal referendum. This is reported by ITAR-TASS.

Police Search for Container of Radioactive Cesium

*OW2509080992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1316 GMT 24 Sep 92*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] So far law-enforcers have been unable to spot those who stole a container with radioactive caesium-137 from the Guriev oil refinery in Kazakhstan several days ago, IF [INTERFAX] was told at the press center of the Kazakh Interior Ministry.

In the lead container there was a capsule with lethal radiation power. According to experts, if the capsule gets opened, such level of radiation would be deadly to any living being within a radius of 20 meters.

The police believe that the container was stolen for one of two reasons: For the purpose of selling it abroad (the value of the container is estimated at 50 to 60 thousand dollars) or using the lead for household needs.

According to the press center, the dangerous cargo was stolen because the refinery's administration failed to ensure appropriate measures of control. The Interior Ministry says that this isn't the first occasion when dangerous substances got stolen there: Only a few months ago a glass container with 20 kilos of quicksilver disappeared from the refinery.

Kyrgyzstan

Minister Accuses 'Pencil-Pushers' of 'Red Tape'

*OW2409020392 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1721 GMT 23 Sep 92*

[From "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the Cabinet session addressing harvesting issues September 22, Premier Chingyshev had to state a pending threat to implement the state order for grain. In the words of the prime minister, "presently fulfilled are merely 5-7 percent of the state order".

The minister of agriculture, Karynbek Asanov, has attributed this situation, first and foremost, to the cash deficit, whereas he explains slow harvesting rate by the shortage of fuels and lubricants.

Mr. Chingyshev has demanded that heads of respective agencies no longer camouflage their own inaction and irresponsibility by speculations about so-called objective difficulties.

"City population and producers of agricultural goods suffer most of all from the red tape of the pencil-pushers. It would be inadmissible that, with a rich crop, such as that we have harvested this year, the people would have nothing to eat in the middle of winter," the Cabinet head emphasized. He called on the agricultural workers not to "feed wheat to the cattle and strictly abide by the resolution banning any export of grain from the territory of Kyrgyzstan".

IF [INTERFAX] Note: According to the experts in Bishkek, the republic's farmers have harvested a good crop of potatoes, vegetables and fruit. Some of the crop, however, remained in the fields. Today, already harvested in the republic have been 1,300 thousand tonnes of grain, which is 190,000 tonnes more than in the same period in 1991.

Russian Oil Prices Affecting Food Prices

LD2409160292

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1600 GMT on 20 September carries a one-minute report by correspondent A. Knyazev from Bishkek on the effects of Russian oil prices on Kyrgyzstan.

Knyazev explains that by President Akayev's decree, the state subsidies on bread, milk, and vodka were sharply reduced two weeks ago. One half liter of vodka now costs at least 230 kopecks. Bread is now up to 25 kopecks per loaf. Not so long ago watermelons were going for 50 kopecks per kg and melons for 10 kopecks per kg, but today they cost 5-7 and 10-15 rubles per kg, respectively. Khyazev continues: Meat is still cheap but it is only a matter time before it goes up. Kyrgyzstan is catching up with Russia on prices but the average monthly pay in the republic is only 2,200 rubles, Knyazev concludes.

Premier Supports CIS Economic Initiative

*OW2309145992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1300 GMT 23 Sep 92*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In his exclusive interview with "IF" [INTERFAX] the Kyrgyzstan's Prime Minister Tursunbek Chingyshev pointed out that he "greatly appreciates" the initiatives of the Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbaev put forward as main issues for the conference of the heads of states and governments in Bishkek. They include establishing of a coalition council for economic cooperation, forming of a bank union, an economic court, and increasing the role of inter-parliamentary assembly.

Chingyshev underlined that creation of a consultative economic body must be viewed as "the first step" on the way to creation of "a normal economic community" with appropriate institutions and complete responsibility of its members following the example of the European Economic Community.

The Kyrgyz Premier also believes that having a single monetary system and being in a single ruble zone it is impossible to postpone creation of a bank union. According to Chingyshev, it must solve issues related to emission and printing banknotes as it "cannot be a prerogative only of the Central Bank of Russia".

Vice President Discusses Talks in Tajikistan

OW2409202292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1600 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vice President Feliks Kulov who is visiting Dushanbe on President Askar Akayev special assignment said Thursday [24 September] in an exclusive interview for INTERFAX that he had come to the Tajik capital to obtain "detailed and objective information regarding the processes occurring in the republic".

The events in Tajikistan quite justly invoke a feeling of concern, Mr Kulov said, referring to his meetings with the republic's acting president Akbar Iskanderov and representative of various political parties and social movements.

In his words, one of the positive results of his contacts was signing of a trade agreement between the two republics. "In realizing the strenuous social situation in Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube regions, we have brought along with us a load of humanitarian aid. Two tonnes of medical supplies were granted yesterday to the representatives of Kulyab regional administration when we met with the leaders of the region's popular movement and local officials," Mr Kulov said.

On the whole, in his opinion, his mission has managed to form an extensive idea of the current situation in Tajikistan and this information will be presented to President Askar Akayev.

On Thursday, the Kyrgyz delegation departed to Khudzhand where they are expected to meet with Rakhman Nabiyeu.

Tajikistan

Former President Nabiyeu Wants To Resume Post

LD2509085792 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 0700 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] The former president of Tajikistan, Rakhman Nabiyeu, has stated that he is ready to return to his post in order to make another attempt to stop the civil war in the republic. In a press interview he said that a number of public organizations and movements in Tajikistan have asked him to take back his resignation application.

Rakhman Nabiyeu, however, admitted that the republic itself practically has no forces to withstand the Islamic

fundamentalists seeking government power. The civil war in Tajikistan, he said, can be stopped only with the help of Russia and other republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Nabiyeu on Spread of Civil War Throughout Region

PM2509104592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
25 Sep 92 p 1

[Igor Lenskiy report incorporating telephone interview with ousted Tajik President Nabiyeu: "R. Nabiyeu Ready To Return"]

[Text] PRAVDA sources in Dushanbe report that there were no signs of a truce in Dushanbe 24 September, the cease-fire deadline. When dusk falls the inhabitants of the capital are afraid to come onto the streets where looting, robbery, and car theft are rife....

People in Kulyab and Leninabad Oblasts do not recognize the "palace coup" that took place in Dushanbe. People in Kulyab have announced that "they will hold out to the end" and all deliveries of foodstuffs and commodities to the new regime from Leninabad have been suspended.

The Russian-speaking population, which is trying to leave Dushanbe on the only flight to Moscow, has virtually no chance of obtaining a freight container. If you want to leave, abandon your property.

Direct-Line Conversation

How does Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyeu view the disorder? I called Leninabad.

"It's not a question of me," Rakhman Nabiyeu said. "It is a question of the republic's future. I stood firm so that we could build a democratic, secular state. Not an Islamic state. However, regrettably, we lacked the forces to resist the Islamic fundamentalists armed by neighbors from Afghanistan. We were late in protecting the borders. The country is in deadly danger. If the nitrogen fertilizer combine and the hydroelectric power station are blown up, that will spell catastrophe...."

"Now a word about my resignation. Prior to it, my only demand was for the hostages to be released and the residence vacated. Then I was willing to hold talks. In issuing my statement at the airport (you know what the situation was like there), I was hoping to stop the fratricidal war. What happened? The situation became far worse and even more terrible. Parliament cannot meet. There is no authority at all. Now various public organizations and movements have asked me to take back my statement and return to performing my duties.

"There is civil war in our republic. It may spread throughout the region. I am grateful to I. Karimov and N. Nazarbayev—they realize this. Our comrades are conducting talks with the leadership of the Russian Federation. I am waiting to see what the reaction will be. Peace is in the hands of the CIS."

'Only Isolated' Attacks on Russian Army Reported*OW2409190992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1548 GMT 24 Sep 92*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] There have been no serious attacks on units of the Russian division deployed in Tajikistan, Anatoliy Ivlev, assistant to the commander of the division, told IF [INTERFAX] on Thursday [24 September]. This also relates to the 191st regiment stationed in Kurgan-Tyube Region, even though territorially its units are situated just between the warring groupings.

According to A. Ivlev, only isolated attacks took place. For instance, last night a sentry was lightly wounded. The day before an officer from a unit stationed in Dushanbe was attacked, obviously for the purpose of seizing his arms.

Tajikistan's leadership, said A. Ivlev, has repeatedly requested Major-General Mukhriddin Ashurov, commander of the Russian division, to transfer arms and armoured vehicles to it. The Russian command is willing to give a positive response to such requests, "but only upon instructions from the Russian President", said A. Ivlev.

Further on Ultimatums To End Fighting*PM2409151592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
23 Sep 92 Morning Edition pp 1,2*

[Report by Aleksandr Karpov: "Tajik Authorities Present Warring Sides With Ultimatum"]

[Text] Dushanbe—The warring armed groupings waging hostilities on the territory of Kurgan-Tyube and Kulyab Oblasts in Tajikistan have to halt the bloodshed before 24 September. Otherwise they will be declared traitors against the nation and force will be used against them.

This was stated by parliamentary speaker Akbarsho Iskandarov, acting president of the republic, in his appeal to the people. The text of the document was published after a closed joint session of the Supreme Soviet and Cabinet of Ministers presidiums in Dushanbe. It was noted at the session that all the efforts made by the authorities and the government in recent days to stabilize the political situation had not achieved the desired results. The warring groups do not want to sit down at the negotiating table and tackle the problems by peaceful means. Local authorities' bodies are behaving in an unprincipled manner trying to avoid doing the job and are even supporting these groups. Enemies are taking advantage of the authorities' position and are committing crime after crime. People of various nationalities are demanding that the republic Supreme Soviet and government finally take effective measures to destroy the evil and punish those responsible for the bloodshed in accordance with the law. The appeal states, in particular, that strong action will be taken against all the local authority leaders who are engaged in double-dealing.

....It appears that the official power structures in Tajikistan are switching to vigorous action. The next few days will tell whether this ultimatum has a sobering effect on the warring sides. However, one can assume that peace will not be easy to attain.

The Kulyab side's demands, made today, were read out at the closed session of the Supreme Soviet and Cabinet of Ministers presidiums. They include convening another session of parliament in Khudzhand—Leninabad Oblast center—in order to assess the circumstances of President Nabiye's resignation; creation of an arbitration tribunal to sort things out between Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube Oblasts; the inclusion of representatives of all Tajikistan's oblasts in the delegation that will represent the republic at the conference of CIS heads of state in Bishkek; the removal of several people, originally put forward by the opposition, from the posts they occupy in the government of national reconciliation. They are D. Usmon, current deputy prime minister and one of the leaders of the Islamic Revival Party; M. Mirrakhim, chairman of state television and radio broadcasting, and D. Aminov, deputy chairman of the national security committee. There was also a demand for the removal of Khodzhi Akbar Turadzhon-zoda, head of the republic's Muslims, from the Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Moreover, it has also been learned from reliable sources that former republic president R. Nabiye, currently in Khudzhand, has started to stake a claim to participation in the republic's political life. In particular, he allegedly sent a telegram to Boris Yeltsin proposing that the Russian leadership deal with him. Rakhman Nabiye, as lawful head of the state of Tajikistan.

In the meantime, armed confrontation continues in a number of areas of Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube. Rather large crowds of people are gathering outside the Supreme Soviet building in Dushanbe—inhabitants of the trouble spots, who are demanding either that immediate steps be taken to stop the bloodshed or that they be given weapons to protect themselves. Tajikistan Democratic Party chairman Sh. Yusupov said in conversation with your correspondent that the Fatherland Protection Front headquarters, which he heads, is prepared to provide the republic government with a voluntary people's militia numbering 3,000, to put a stop to the activities of bandit formations in Kurgan-Tyube. At the session of the Tajiki Ministers presidiums A. Abdullodzhanov, formerly president of a bakery concern, was named the republic's acting prime minister.

Dushanbe Rally Urges End to Fratricidal War*LD2409153492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1408 GMT 24 Sep 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe September 24 TASS—Residents of Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan, took to streets on Thursday [24 September] to rally in protest against the continuing civil war in the republic.

Tajikistan has appealed to Russia for help to localise the conflict. To this end, Tajikistan requested Russia to sell it armoured vehicles of the 201st motorised infantry division which was originally meant to be sent to the zone of the conflict to disengage the warring sides.

"However in the last minute, Russia rejected our request. Now the republican leadership is seeking other ways to prevent the emergence of new trouble spots," Dzhurabek Aminov, deputy Tajik security minister, said.

People are being drafted to self-defence units in the Kofirnikhon district of Tajikistan to resist possible attacks by guerrillas from the rebel Kulyab region. Volunteers are arriving to the district from Dushanbe and other mountainous districts of the republic. According to unofficial reports, Kulyab rebels are strengthening their positions.

Deputy Prime Minister Says Russian Treaty 'Vital'

OW2409202492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1603 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The Tajik economy will be simply paralyzed if the republic does not cooperate with Russia and other CIS countries," First Deputy Prime Minister Dzhamshed Karimov told IF [INTERFAX].

According to Karimov, the severance of links with other republics of the former USSR has been responsible for many of the problems Tajikistan faces in the creation of a market economy. Apart from this, Karimov said, Tajikistan had been in a less favorable position when it embarked on the task, having an economy mainly geared to the production of raw materials, a desperately inefficient transportation system, and a serious budget deficit.

"Having a treaty with the Russian Federation will be vital for us," he said. It will be signed "under any circumstances."

IF Note: Such a treaty was to be signed within the first ten days of this month but this was postponed due to President Rakhman Nabiyev's resignation.

Uzbekistan

Further on Karimov's Visit to Austria

PM2409120592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
22 Sep 92 p 3

[Report by Igor Melnikov: "Vienna-Tashkent: Dialogue Between Equals"]

[Text] Vienna—The official visit to Vienna by President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov apparently convinced the Austrians that Tashkent really is a "city of plenty"

Economic and trade cooperation was the dominant theme of the talks, and the fact that both sides will be entering virgin territory here (the president cited the eloquent fact that only 12 of Uzbekistan's 1,300 joint ventures involve Austrians), made the dialogue a businesslike one.

The guest's candor about the state of affairs in the trouble spots of the CIS and Europe made a considerable impression in Vienna. I. Karimov described the current course of events in neighboring Tajikistan as a potential danger to the whole of Central Asia, and when an Austrian television correspondent asked him, "as president of an Islamic country," how he viewed the situation in Bosnia, there came the following reply:

"I want to correct you. I represent not an Islamic country, but a democratic republic, in which people profess the Islamic religion. They are entirely different concepts. As for the problem of Bosnia and Hercegovina, I share the UN position and believe that the matter can only be resolved under the auspices of the world community."

Birlik Leaders Allege Human Rights Violations

OW2409192892 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1551 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leaders of Uzbekistan's popular republican movement "Birlik" said that its members and representatives of other democratic organizations are being persecuted and physically assaulted. The allegations of human rights violations in Uzbekistan were made at a press conference in Moscow Thursday [24 September], organized by Birlik members and the "Democratic Russia" movement.

Concerning the danger of Islamic fundamentalism Birlik leader Abdulatip Bulatov said that "74 years of militant atheism negate this danger". Bulatov said "the nation's intellectuals would willingly support democracy if the roads were opened to democratic development".

Deputy of the Russian Parliament and Co-Chairman of Democratic Russia Lev Ponomarev said that he will work to get the Uzbek human rights issue on the agenda for parliamentary hearings. Ponomarev said the ratification of an agreement between Russia and Uzbekistan should be preceded by concrete steps by Tashkent in human rights issues; persecution must be ended, those in custody released, and freedom of the press must be ensured.

Armenia

Defense Minister on Treaty With Azerbaijan

MK2509060992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 25 Sep 92 p 3

[Report on interview with Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan by Liana Minasyan; place, date not given: "Armenia-Azerbaijan—"Secret" Peace Treaty"]

[Text] "In Sochi we achieved not a political but a military agreement," Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan said in an interview for NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA following the negotiations by the heads of the military departments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Russia. "It will give an opportunity for political aspects of the problem to be discussed at the level of the three presidents" (on this occasion Yeltsin will be the third president—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA).

Pavel Grachev was the person responsible for this meeting, at which there was discussion of a cease-fire along the line of the front on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan and between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh; the dispatch to the region of observers from Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Belarus, and Georgia; and, following agreement with the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, the introduction—if they deem it necessary—of CIS peacekeeping forces. Also adopted was a point on the complete withdrawal of the troops within two months.

The agreement to effect a cease-fire from 25 September was to have been reinforced at a meeting of delegations of military experts taking place in Moscow 24 September. Also taking part in it was Colonel Rafik Kizochyan, representing the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR], despite the fact that as far as the Azerbaijani and Russian delegations are concerned his presence—as the minister put it—"was not very desirable": "If the NKR defense minister had arrived in Sochi the Azerbaijanis would certainly have objected. But in the absence of the Karabakhis they are beginning to doubt the validity of the agreements." Following the foreign ministers' negotiations in Alma-Ata Azerbaijani Defense Minister Gaziyeu declared that decisionmaking was the prerogative of the military. "I believe that today an accord between the military really is more effective," Sarkisyan said. "We must demonstrate that we are prepared for a cease-fire: Otherwise, if the sick man doesn't want to be cured, nobody is going to help him. Since Russia has assumed a mediation role—and for Russia this is not so much a military as a political decision—we are prepared to grant it the role of the 'referee' who shows the yellow and red cards. Grachev is agreeable to such a role. For it is possible not only to record the violations but also 'punish the guilty parties'."

It is not excluded that the countries which have expressed their readiness to send observers will give their assent if it proves necessary to send in peacekeeping

forces as well. These issues were also discussed at the 24 September meeting of experts.

"Nothing has come either of the total offensive against Karabakh or of the psychosis surrounding the nonexistent victories of the Azerbaijani Army. The only fact has been the large number of fatalities among the Azerbaijani military," the minister said. "Thus, it is difficult to raise the authority and the spirit of their troops, and this won't make matters any easier in the least for the parents of dead 18-year-old soldiers."

Karabakh Official on Peace Talks, UN Observers

NC2409153892 Yerevan SNARK in English
1215 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Stepanakert, 24 Sep (SNARK)—Marsel Petrosyan, head of the Karabakh Department of Press and Information, has said today to the SNARK reporter, "The Karabakh leaders are for peaceful ways of the conflict regulation. We were ready for negotiations in 1988. There is no need to persuade us to cease the fire." Speaking on the results of the Sochi agreement, Petrosyan has underlined that the Karabakh authorities greet the Russian intermediary efforts on concluding the armistice between the confronting sides. He has underlined that the observers from the CIS or the UN should come to Karabakh.

Karabakh Official Denies Martuni Captured

NC2409141792 Yerevan SNARK in English
1555 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Stepanakert, 23 Sep (SNARK)—The Karabakh State Department of Press and Information has denied the fact of capturing Martuni, the centre of the rayon. Marsel Petrosyan, head of the department, has said to the SNARK reporter that the staff of the Karabakh front of Azerbaijan had again given the misinformation. Petrosyan has stated that there is the accumulation of the Azerbaijan forces in 10 km from Martuni but there haven't been any military actions.

Yerevan Radio Updates Recent Fighting

NC2409170092 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International
Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY quotes self-defense forces headquarters as reporting that one resident was killed and 10 were injured as a result of the 23 September air raid on Stepanakert.

The air piracy against the settlements of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] has become regular practice. The daily air raids are accompanied by Azerbaijani disinformation alleging that Armenian military planes are launching air raids against Agdam and other Azerbaijani settlements. Such reports are untrue.

Under the cover of artillery shelling and supported by armored vehicles and tanks, Azerbaijani Army units

launched an all-day attack toward Berdashen in Martuninskiy Rayon on 23 September. The enemy's attacks were repulsed in the evening. The Azerbaijani detachments withdrew from the rayon, abandoning two destroyed tanks and 42 dead soldiers. Four Armenian freedom fighters were wounded.

Azerbaijani press sources yesterday cited the Azerbaijani defense minister on the alleged occupation of Martuni. The NKR Self-Defense Forces Headquarters has refuted these reports.

The NKR self-defense forces succeeded in repulsing all the Azerbaijani attacks on the Lachin humanitarian corridor from the direction of Kelbadzharskiy Rayon on 23 September and on the morning of 24 September.

Azerbaijani units also attacked Nakhichevanik and Prdzhemal in Askeranskiy Rayon. According to the latest reports, the Armenian self-defense detachments are checking the enemy's advances.

Azerbaijani Offensive Reportedly Fails

NC2509080892 Yerevan SNARK in English
0530 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Stepanakert, 25 Sep (SNARK)—Yesterday the Azerbaijan Army made the offensive to Nakhichevanik and Pirdjamal, villages of Askeranskiy Rayon. It failed. Marcel Petrosyan, head of the Karabakh state department of press and information, has informed the SNARK reporter on the situation. Yesterday evening local forces of self-defence made the counter-offensive. The Azerbaijan Army lost about 50 soldiers, 6 tanks, 2 infantry armoured machines and other weapons. Besides, the Armenian forces of self-defence neutralized the enemy emplacements at Gulably, Azerbaijani village of Agdamskiy Rayon, neighbouring to Nagorno-Karabakh. The Armenian side had no great losses.

Official on Azerbaijan in CIS, Central Asia Ties

OW2409191692 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1554 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, S. Ivanov, and I. Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The attitude to the possibility of Azerbaijan's joining the Commonwealth of Independent States could be positive", DP's [Diplomatic Panorama's] correspondent was told by Aleksandr Tatevosyan, chief of the CIS countries department of Armenia's Foreign Ministry. He believes however that to turn the procedure of joining the CIS and leaving it into a simple formality should be avoided.

If the issue of Azerbaijan's joining the CIS is raised once again, it will be necessary to determine what conditions have to be met by the CIS members, the diplomat said. According to him, Armenia intends to insist that the

member states should clearly define and unambiguously follow a policy based on no aggression against each other.

In this connection Armenia points to the need to stop as soon as possible the armed clashes in Nagorno-Karabakh and the military conflict on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and settle all disputes by means of negotiations.

With reference to the main topics of discussion at the upcoming CIS summit in Bishkek the diplomat said he hopes that participants in the summit will answer the following question: is the CIS capable of devising mechanisms that would make it possible to put an end to anarchy and ensure coordinated actions in political and economic relationships within the Commonwealth?

Judging by the agreements reached, A. Tatevosyan said, in Bishkek Armenia will officially establish diplomatic relations with Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan.

Supreme Soviet Elects Deputy Chairman 23 Sep

NC2509095992 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First
Program Network in Armenian 1650 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Report by Galine Yelanozyan on the Armenian Supreme Soviet session in Yerevan on 23 September; recorded]

[Excerpts] [Yelanozyan] The major development at today's Supreme Soviet session was the election of its deputy chairman. Artashes Samvelovich Tumanyan was elected with 99 votes. [passage omitted]

The session adopted a resolution to ensure the implementation of the Armenian Law on Privatization and Denationalization of State Enterprises and Unfinished Constructions with (135) votes. [passage omitted]

Toward the end of the session, the results of the second round of voting on candidates for the job of Supreme Soviet secretary and for the chairmanship of the Supreme Soviet Standing Commission on Local Self-Administration were announced. None of the candidates received the required number of votes.

The Supreme Soviet will continue its deliberations tomorrow.

Azerbaijan

Government Reacts to Cease-Fire Agreement

OW2409195292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1556 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In commenting of the reports regarding the cease fire agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia at the border between these countries (Ref. Presidential Bulletin #166), President Elchibey's Cabinet PR, Tofik Valiyev, claimed that "no foreign troops can be introduced to the territory of Azerbaijan, including Karabakh, without a conformable decision by the Azerbaijanian government".

The president's PR also noted that the issue of withdrawal of the armed formations has to do specifically with army units. He is regarding as positive the fact that Yerevan is assuming upon itself the responsibility for the armed formations operating in Azerbaijan's Karabakh region. In Mr Valiyev's opinion, the terms "armed formations" and "armed forces" used in the document need to be defined more exactly.

Mr Valiyev maintains that given a reliable mechanism for realizing the cease-fire agreement were developed, this document would "certainly contribute to the settlement of the conflict".

In the meantime, the Azerbaijanian defense ministry refused to comment on the document, alleging that "the issue has not been thoroughly examined".

IF [INTERFAX] Note: According to the Azerbaijanian officials, a conciliatory commission in Moscow is working out a mechanism of control over the implementation of the cease-fire agreement in the conflict zone. The Armenian sources maintain that apart from the experts of the Armenian and Azerbaijanian defense ministries also participating in this work are representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The deputy press secretary of the Armenian president, Aram Abramyan, said in an interview for INTERFAX that "in reality, it would only be possible to realize the cease-fire agreement in Nagorno-Karabakh for the period of two months beginning from midnight Sept. 25 provided the defense ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as the commander of the self defense forces in Nagorno-Karabakh, simultaneously issue an order to stop all hostilities".

In the words of Mr Abramyan, Armenia has no intention to give up its well-known principle: the conciliation process would only be effective when representatives of the legitimate powers of Nagorno-Karabakh were also participating in it. "Only the command of the Nagorno-Karabakh self-defense forces have the right to address the cease-fire issue, although Armenia will, certainly, assist Karabakh in doing it," Mr Abramyan emphasized. [sentence as received]

Elchibey: Russian Officer Will Not Be Executed

PM2409144392 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
22 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Gennadiy Seleznev: "Lieutenant Lukin Will Not Be Shot"]

[Text] A television program on Sunday showed a meeting between the central papers' chief editors and Azerbaijan President A. Elchibey. Naturally, the conversation with the head of state lasted beyond the program's 45-minute slot.

On behalf of PRAVDA's readers I asked for the president's opinion on the death sentence passed by the republic court on Russian Lieutenant Lukin.

The president said that he is essentially against the death penalty anyway, he knows about the Lukin case, and he promised to get it reviewed by the court. A. Elchibey guaranteed that the young officer would live.

Trade, Economic Agreement Signed With Tatarstan

LD2409222192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin
Network in Russian 1100 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] An agreement on the principles of trade and economic cooperation between Azerbaijan and Tatarstan was signed in Baku today. The document envisages preservation of the existing economic ties and the establishment of new economic ties between the two republics, based on market relations.

There was also a meeting between a Tatar Government delegation and the Azeri leadership. The two parties agreed to set up groups of experts to work out a list of products for mutual exchange of supplies.

Government Said To Hold on Manat Introduction

NC2509093792 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English
1132 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Baku, 24 Sep (ASSA-IRADA)—According to the information given by the expert group of CIS in Minsk, Azerbaijan will join the monetary system coordinated with monetary policy of the states comprising CIS and retaining ruble as a legitimate payment means. As for Manat, its further introduction will be held up.

Georgia

Abkhaz Leaders Accuse Russia of Violations

LD2409171392 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1900 GMT 21 Sep 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The press center of the Abkhazian parliament today accused Russian Army units in Georgia of handing over their armaments—artillery, bombs, Grad installations—to the troops of the Georgian State Council. The Georgian Defense Ministry denied this, but said in its statement that the interests of Georgia's defense require that the legal share of aviation, for example, be handed over to it. Thus far, Georgia does not have a single aircraft.

Incidentally, one of five battalions of the Abkhazian Army that is coming into being has already been formed in

Sukhumi on the initiative of the Georgian authorities; 70 percent of it consists of Georgians, 15 percent of Abkhazian Armenians, and 6 percent of Greek soldiers. These figures were published by the INTERFAX agency today.

[Correspondent V. Vinogradov] The Moscow treaty of 3 September on a cease-fire in Abkhazia is not being observed. It was with these words that the members of the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia started their news conference. It was recognized that the complicated nature of the situation can be explained by the split in the parliament. At the present time there are two of them—one, in the form of the Soyuz bloc, is located in Gudauta, and the other, formed on the bases of the Democratic Abkhazia faction, is in Sukhumi.

The Georgian deputies have asserted that it is the Abkhazian side that is continuing the fighting unilaterally, and also that the documents are not being completely implemented by Russia. To be more exact, two points of view have already emerged there. One is that of President Yeltsin and the other is that of the parliamentary commission for national relations, as a result of whose work an appeal to the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet has appeared on the withdrawal of the State Council troops from Abkhazia. In Georgia, it is believed that the issue of troops being located on its territory lies within the competence of the State Council.

[Announcer] Today the Russian Foreign Ministry published a statement. The progress of the implementation of the Moscow accords on a settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia is causing very great concern in the Russian leadership. The sides are not observing the key clauses in the final document. [video shows news conference given by members of Abkhazian parliament]

Defense Ministry Transfers Military Units

LD2209164392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1035 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS freelance correspondent Mikhail Kasoyev]

[Text] Tbilisi, 22 September—In accordance with an inter-governmental agreement reached between Russia and Georgia, the transfer of the Akhaltsikhe motorized rifle division under the command of the Georgian Defense Ministry was completed today. The press center of the Transcaucasus Military District also told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that a motorized rifle regiment was being redeployed to a Tbilisi suburb.

Georgian, Abkhazian Groups Agree on POW's, Aid

LD2409113492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 0200 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Representatives of the Abkhazian and Georgian factions of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet reached an agreement on 22 September on the exchange of POW's, the distribution of humanitarian aid from Russia, and

the restoration of automobile traffic in the region. The trilateral inspection and control commission is to continue its work in Sukhumi today.

Abkhazian Deputy Warns Russia of Indifference

LD2409212692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1528 GMT 24 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—"Russia should not remain indifferent to what is going on in Abkhazia because almost 90,000 Russians live there, many of whom have fled their homes," Vladislav Ardzinba, Abkhazian parliamentary speaker, said.

Ardzinba said the results of the closed-door debates on the situation in the northern Caucasus that are being held in the Russian parliament will be "extremely important."

"The Georgian side is violating practically all agreements reached at the Moscow meeting on September 3. I'm convinced that the main aim of troop deployment in Abkhazia is the republic's occupation in order to abolish its statehood, drive all non-Georgians from Abkhazia and make Georgia a mono-national republic," Ardzinba said.

Black Sea Fleet Evacuating Poti

LD2409221192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 1223 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] It has cost the Black Sea Fleet more than 12 million rubles to evacuate equipment and personnel from the Poti garrison. The situation around the city is extremely tense. The thick walls can no longer protect the people. Servicemen and volunteers are evacuating their families and relations from the western zone [of Georgia], having sold for next to nothing their apartments and left behind things it took them a lifetime to acquire.

The Fleet Command is making every effort to help the people in these difficult times. Military transport aviation AN-12 and AN-22 planes have already made 42 flights to the area. Twenty-six trips in the same direction have already been made by a large landing ship and the hospital ship Yenisey.

The situation in the city remains tense.

Gamsakhurdia Supporters Rally; Leader Taken Away

LD2509103492 Moscow Radio Rossii in Russian
0500 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Supporters of ex-president Gamsakhurdia have made an attempt to stage a mass-meeting in Tbilisi, calling for a boycott of parliamentary elections in the republic. EKSPRESS-KHRONIKA reports that Valeriya Novodvorskaya, leader of the Democratic Union, who had arrived in Tbilisi from Moscow yesterday was scheduled to make an appearance at the meeting. However,

plain-clothes men—thought to be Mkhedroni [pro-government militia] members—arrived at the scene and dispersed the protesters. Novodvorskaya was beaten up and taken away to an unknown destination.

Shevardnadze: Social Problems Need Western Help

AU2509084692 Vienna KURIER in German
25 Sep 92 p 5

[“Exclusive” interview with Eduard Shevardnadze by Sibylle Hamann; place and date not given: “I Jumped Into Boiling Water”]

[Text] [Hamann] What made you return to Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] I feel like a man who lived in an oasis for a long time and who suddenly leaves this oasis and jumps into a cauldron filled with water—and then realizes that the water is boiling. I returned because it was simply my duty—for my people and my homeland. I am certain that we will manage to solve the current conflict through peaceful means. What worries me much more in my country are the pressing economic problems. Enormous social dynamite has accumulated in Georgia, and if it ignites, it will be much more dangerous than the current war. We will not be able to overcome these social problems on our own. Georgia will need help from the West.

[Hamann] Were mistakes made in the process of dissolving the USSR? Could some conflicts have been avoided?

[Shevardnadze] The old Soviet Union had to be dissolved—there is no question about that. But this process of dissolution should have been controlled centrally. Unfortunately, this did not happen and, therefore, we have all these conflicts. Everything happened much too quickly. The countries that formed the Soviet Union were practically unprepared for the new freedom. Therefore, we now have terrible disasters.

[Hamann] Many borders between the new independent states are disputed. Do you see any prospects for changing the borders without bloodshed?

[Shevardnadze] Basically, there can be changes in the borders. In principle, this can be done peacefully, but I am afraid that under the current circumstances this is an almost unsolvable task. In particular, regarding the problem of borders between the new states, not all disputed issues have come to the surface so far. As soon as all these conflicts are put on the political agenda, we all will come to face very difficult problems.

[Hamann] Territorial integrity is undisputed for Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] Our borders will be stable.

[Hamann] Is Russia a potential ally against new nationalist dangers—or is there fear of new hegemonic claims?

[Shevardnadze] This depends on who rules in Russia. If the democratic order is maintained in Russia, Georgia and Russia will have good relations because the national interests of Russia and Georgia coincide, as long as Russia is ruled democratically. If the reactionary forces come to power, however, this may change all at once—then we will be in a totally different situation.

[Hamann] Does the CIS have a future at all?

[Shevardnadze] We have close cooperation with the CIS countries in many fields, even though we are not a member of the CIS. Regarding our future relations, I have justified doubts that this organizational form has a future.

[Hamann] Do you expect a new escalation of violence before the elections at the beginning of October?

[Shevardnadze] Yes, unfortunately. Violence will increase again because there are very strong forces that want to prevent democratic elections by all means. They have weapons and among them there are many terrorists who will stop at nothing. But we must absolutely cope with them because our country's future fate depends on these elections. It was the desire of the parties that I not run on any of their tickets. The bad thing is that I am the only candidate for the office of president. There will be no election campaign, and such a campaign would have been important for democratic development.

Estonia

Foreign Ministry Note Rejects Russian Charges

LD2409225692 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
2056 GMT 24 Sep 92

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn September 25 TASS—The Estonian Foreign Ministry sent a note of protest to the Russian Government on Thursday, expressing bewilderment over the latter's statement about violations of human rights in Estonia and its threats to use tough measures against Estonia.

The statement said that 42 percent of Russians living in Estonia are deprived of many civil rights, including the franchise, which prevented them from taking part in the parliamentary and presidential elections in the republic last October.

The note stressed that elections were held in accordance with the Estonian legislation and were monitored by international observers.

The note said Estonia is a democratic state which does not discriminate against people of other nationalities. At the same time, 42 percent of non-ethnic Estonians were barred from elections since they were neither citizens of pre-war Estonia nor their direct descendants.

The Estonian Foreign Ministry described the statement as an attempt to interfere in Estonia's internal affairs.

'Sources' Expect Russian Action on Ethnic Issue

OW2409184792 Moscow *BALTFAX in English*
1526 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] *BALTFAX* [BF] learned from well-informed sources that the collegium of the Russian government plans to return to the consideration of Russian-Estonian relations next week. It is possible that a document will be adopted stipulating a series of sanctions against Estonia, where the Russian leadership believes the rights of Russian-speaking residents are being violated. A draft of the document has already been prepared and a "political resolution" is needed to put its proposed measures into effect.

The Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry told a BF correspondent that, despite Russia's attempts to build up relations with Estonia on the basis of equality and mutual respect, at present the situation carries "a special nature, since Russia cannot indifferently observe and not react to the violations of the rights of ethnic Russians in Estonia."

Russian Envoy Cites 'Discriminatory Policies'

OW2409184892 Moscow *BALTFAX in English*
1525 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian government and Russian society are far from indifferent toward the discriminatory policies which are beginning to be enacted in republics of the former USSR, said Russian ambassador to Estonia Aleksandr Trofimov. An announcement published Wednesday [23 September] in the newspaper "ESTONIA," stated that the diplomat called abnormal the situation in which approximately 40% of Estonian residents were robbed of their voting rights.

At the same time, the ambassador said the Russian government's strict position toward Estonia on this matter is not at all new and Russia has never turned down an opportunity to discuss the issue on an international level. In addition, Trofimov pointed out that the Russian Supreme Soviet's July resolution on human rights in Estonia required the Russian government to prepare a draft of a document on the introduction of economic sanctions toward Estonia.

Unemployed To Be Given Jobs at Public Works

OW2409125092 Moscow *BALTFAX in English*
1109 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian government yesterday considered the creation of jobs for the unemployed at public works, deciding that they cannot be used there for more than 10 days or 80 hours per month.

According to Labor Minister Arvo Kuddo, the unemployed refusing to take such jobs for any other reason than illness will be deprived of their unemployment benefits for two weeks.

The employment services of local administrative bodies will be given the right to send all registered unemployed to public works.

Bank Criticizes Unfunded Minimum Wage Hike

LD2509061892 Tallinn *Radio Tallinn Network*
in Estonian 1200 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] The Estonian Bank's board has made a statement drawing attention to the fact that the government resolution made two days before the elections to increase the minimum wage and other payments is without any financial backing. Isa Braun, secretary of the Bank's board, told the *BALTIC NEWS SERVICE* that the 300-kroon minimum wage would require additional allocations from the state budget totaling 104 million kroons. Because the government's reserve budget fund for the second half of the year totals only 80 million kroons, at least 24 million kroons are without backing.

The board of the Estonian Bank is drawing attention to the dangers of promises made without financial backing. In the board's opinion, such a decision will unbalance the state budget, increase inflation, and damage the reputation of the Estonian kroon. The board also believes that the minimum wage should be increased even more than 300 kroons but only when the corresponding means exist.

The government resolution on the 300-kroon minimum wage was adopted on 18 September under pressure from Estonian trade unions. In the memorandum presented to the IMF, the government envisages that the minimum wage will be increased to only 253 kroons by the end of the year.

The board of the Estonian Bank issued this statement on 19 September in Stockholm, where they are on a visit familiarizing themselves with the activities of the Swedish State Bank.

Vahi: Coal Supply Sufficient for Winter

LD2509055592 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Speaking about fuel and energy supplies in Estonia at the government's information hour on 15 September, Prime Minister Tiit Vahi said that on the basis of existing agreements there should be enough coal until the spring and that deals for additional supplies of fuel oil are being formalized. Economics Minister Olari Taal and Riho Sild, director general of Estonian Fuel, recently reached an agreement with the Russian Ministry for Power Engineering to supply about 200,000 tonnes of fuel oil to Estonia. ETA notes that according to Vahi it is very difficult to find money to meet the fuel agreements. [passage omitted]

Economics Minister Olari Taal announced that today's government session had decided to introduce a 20-percent upper limit on profit margins at state-owned enterprises as of 1 October. Anything over the limit will be transferred to the state budget. According to Taal, this resolution resulted from the desire to halt inflation and to increase the salary ratio within a cost price. Statistical data for the first half-year demonstrates that profit margins in Estonia have risen to 52 percent. The increase in profit margins is one of the reasons why enterprises are unable to pay their bills, he noted. Excessively high gross profits result in high prices and goods remain unsold. Because of the inability of enterprises to pay, 230 million kroons had not been transferred to the state budget as of 1 September. The economics minister thought that introducing an upper limit for profit margins would help to invigorate the market within three month's time.

Latvia

Russian Army Units Situation Viewed

OW2409184992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1526 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Members of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Latvian Parliament will receive weekly reports from the republic's defense ministry and security service, and will use classified information from the security service on Russian army units on Latvian territory and on officer and veteran organizations. This was announced to commission members Wednesday [23 September] by Deputy Chairman of the Latvian Supreme Soviet Andrejs Krastins.

He also reported that in units of the Russian army in Latvia appeals for the use of weapons are widespread, groups of women are staging demonstrations, and political agitation is being conducted against the restationing of officers to Russia. Krastins said the Moscow organization "Obshchestveny Kroog" ("Social Circle")—which has as one of its leaders Viktor Alksnis, the former leader of the deputy group "Soyuz" ("Union") in the former USSR parliament—has a direct relation to these activities.

Latvian Delegation Head Comments

OW2509132692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1223 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leader of the Latvian delegation at the Latvian-Russian negotiations held in Jurmala near Riga on September 22-24, Indulis Berzins, told the parliamentary foreign affairs commission which he heads that the negotiations had brought relations between Latvia and Russia to a state they were in last spring. Neither delegation, he said, had changed its position.

According to Berzins, the Latvian delegation had raised no more demands than Lithuania or Estonia did, insisting that the Russian armed forces leave Latvia by September 1993. Russia, however, made conditions which "Latvia, as a sovereign state, could not accept".

In Berzin's opinion, Russia, unable to stop the decay of its armed forces, seeks to have its officers stay in Latvia.

The delegations discussed each other's proposals reaching no agreement, Berzins said.

Gorbunovs Meets With Foreign Leaders at UN

LD2409214492 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Anatolijs Gorbunovs, chairman of the Latvian Supreme Council, is continuing his visit to New York.

An hour after his arrival in New York, Anatolijs Gorbunovs attended a reception given for the heads of state delegations and UN diplomats by Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe.

A similar reception was given by No Tae-u, president of the Republic of Korea. Anatolijs Gorbunovs and No Tae-u informed each other about the political and economic situation in their two countries and indicated willingness to develop cooperation.

Yesterday morning, Anatolijs Gorbunovs met the Zimbabwean foreign minister. Zimbabwe is a member of the UN Security Council. Therefore it was important that the head of state once again explained Latvia's unyielding commitment to a complete and speedy withdrawal of the troops of the former USSR from the Baltics.

Anatolijs Gorbunovs also had a successful talk with a representative of another member of the Security Council, Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky. The Hungarian diplomat said that he understands well, the desire of Latvia and the other Baltic states to achieve complete withdrawal of the Russian Army within an acceptable period, because Hungary has also faced this painful problem.

A talk between Anatolijs Gorbunovs and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas was friendly and businesslike. The French diplomat also indicated his country's sympathy for the Baltic states' desire for a complete and quick withdrawal of foreign troops. He was interested in how relations between Latvia and Russia are developing over this issue.

Sweden and Spain may be new members of the Security Council next year. In a talk with the foreign ministers of these states, the head of the Latvian delegation indicated our readiness to support the candidatures of these states at forthcoming elections to the Security Council at the session of the General Assembly. The Foreign Ministers of these two states considered it correct to include the question of the Russian Army's withdrawal on the agenda of the 47th session of the UN General Assembly, and promised to back the resolution.

Anatolijs Gorbunovs took part in a dinner which was held by UN General Secretary Butrus Butrus-Ghali in honor of the heads of state delegations and ambassadors to the UN.

In the afternoon, he met with the Norwegian foreign minister, who recently visited Riga. The two men emphasized their readiness to widen and develop cooperation between their two states.

Today Anatolijs Gorbunovs will continue meeting leaders and diplomats of various states who have arrived for the 47th session of the UN General Assembly.

Iranian Submarine Leaves Riga Harbor

OW2409213492 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1903 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Baltfax has learned from sources close to the Latvian Defence Ministry that a few days ago, an Iranian submarine bought from Russia had left Riga harbour and set sail for the shores of the Persian Gulf. The Iranian submarine had been undergoing repair work at a military submarine repair shop under the supervision of the Russian army.

Unofficial information quotes the Russians as having sold at least two such submarines to Iran.

Latest Round of Talks With Russia Conclude

Russian Delegation Head Comments

LD2409212092 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1533 GMT 24 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Jurmala (Latvia) September 24 TASS—A dialogue between Russia and Latvia which began two days ago in Jurmala, will break for a while to be continued approximately in a week's time in Moscow.

In the meantime, experts will study the discussed documents.

The Russian delegation is leaving the Baltic republic on Thursday [24 September]. Head of the delegation Sergey Zotov did not conceal his disappointment that no desired headway had been made.

He believes Russia's proposals to withdraw Russian troops in 1994 instead of 1999, five years ahead of the scheduled time, should have been the turning point at the talks.

"In response to the action of good-will, a complaint was lodged with the United Nations organization," Zotov said in a TV interview.

"We regard the move as an attempt to divert public opinion from the existing problems and put international pressure on Russia," Zotov pointed out.

Leader of the Latvian delegation to the talks Yanis Dinevich described the talks as extremely complicated. He believes the talks have begun practically anew, since all previous achievements have been only partially used. The positions of the two sides have become sharply different. Dinevich believes the relations between the two states are being affected by the internal political situation in Russia.

"If the Russian parliament stops agreements with Lithuania too and the whole process there has to be started anew, it is not clear to me how the negotiations

should be conducted and what authorities has the Russian delegation which participates in the talks," Dinevich said.

Lithuania

Russian Army Train To Leave Vilnius 25 Sep

LD2409222492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] According to information available to Radio Vilnius, the first train consisting of 40 cars carrying military equipment, ammunition, officers, and their families of the Russian Army's 107th Division from the so-called Northern townlet in the capital, will leave Vilnius tomorrow. This Russian Army train is leaving for a new place of deployment in Moscow oblast. Thus, the implementation of the agreement on the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Vilnius by the end of November of this year is starting.

The train should have left Vilnius today, but due to delays in loading and the inability of the customs officials to inspect the train in good time, its departure has been postponed until tomorrow.

Misgivings Over Rapid Troop Pullout Aired

PM2409152792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Sep 92 First Edition p7

[Correspondent Yuriy Stroganov report: "Lithuanian Politicians Have Played the Military Card, But Who Has Won?"]

[Text] Vilnius—It is unusually quiet in the North Military Camp in Vilnius. This is the home of the division which politicians "set up" in the tragic events of January 1991, in an attempt to blame the military for their mistakes. The avenues between the barracks are almost empty. Draftees are not sent here. Under the terms of the documents signed recently in Moscow after a meeting between Russian President B. Yeltsin and V. Landsbergis, Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman, the division is to be the first to leave the capital of the sovereign republic. "In November," the Lithuanian press says. "By the end of the year," division commanders claim. They are awaiting instructions....

This large formation is a long-standing "trump card" of Lithuanian politicians, who claim that Western businessmen are afraid to invest money in the Lithuanian economy, as they know that Russian troops are only "a stone's throw away from parliament." I do not think that is true.

However, the card has been played. Russian troops must leave the republic in 1993, and the Vilnius Division will head the column. V. Landsbergis believes that the documents signed in Moscow can be seen as a turning point—not only in a solution to the military problem, but also in the general progress of interstate talks. The Lithuanian leader

regards the Moscow accords as a great achievement in the development of relations between the two states. His arguments are obvious: At first, the Russian military said they would leave in 1997, then they planned to "get out" in 1994. In comparison to this, 1993—the year of the final withdrawal—is indubitably a Lithuanian diplomatic success, even if it does not accord with the results of the referendum which demanded that the troops leave the republic by the end of this year. It must be admitted that it comes as a pleasant surprise to the head of parliament and the movements which support him on the eve of elections to the Sejm. V. Landsbergis' rating among the indigenous population may well rise.

Among Russians, opinions on the forthcoming withdrawal are divided. Many are worried about it, but Lithuanian Supreme Council Deputy V. Yarmolenko says:

"There are people who think that we will come under pressure here as soon as the Army leaves.... I believe exactly the opposite: Our future can only improve once the army of a foreign state has withdrawn." In my view, there is little point discussing the danger of Russian troops and "provocative features." Since August, the Kremlin's policy has changed, and tension arises only where it is deliberately created. As in the case of the armed Estonian Kaitseliit, for example, which is constantly sabre rattling at the gates of Russian military units and trying—to the joy of some politicians—to provoke counteractions. In Lithuania, the last serious incident on these grounds occurred several months ago, when the Klaipeda Division commander was arrested for alleged "pro-State Committee for the State of Emergency" actions. Any isolated misunderstandings since then have been provoked.

The commander of the Vilnius Division, Colonel V. Frolov, has repeatedly said that his formation is prepared to leave at any time, as long as appropriate conditions for officers and warrant officers are created in the new location. Lieutenant Colonel A. Kirichenko confirmed the commitment to this stand—undoubtedly the only acceptable stand to take—after the Moscow decisions.

"The division will be reformed into a brigade within the Moscow Military District and moved to Solnechnogorsk. Those who do not join the brigade will be given housing in Russia: in Kolomna, Lipetsk, and other cities. Apartments will be bought for them by the headquarters of the Northwestern Group of Forces. Some officers without quarters will join a different group of forces. Those with apartments here who wish to remain will be discharged. Many have privatized their accommodations, and some have already sold them and bought apartments in Russia."

Unfortunately, junior officers are not so optimistic. Why else would they not wish to be named?

"I can see no future for myself," one of them said. "A large question mark looms ahead. I, for example, am in no position to leave here, because I have a young baby. I cannot take him into uncertainty. Many of us feel very negative about such a hasty repositioning of troops."

I am convinced that he did not speak of others for no reason. You can understand their concern if you recall the withdrawal of troops from Eastern Europe, which has been such a dismal experience for officers' families. When ranks of dissatisfied officers join the thousands—but from Lithuania and other Baltic countries this time—it will hardly add to stability in our disturbed society.

The Vilnius Division, which will be the first to tread the path home, serves as a model in this respect. There is no getting away from the fact that places will have to be found for the restationing of dozens of other military units of the former Soviet Union. With the days and weeks slipping by, is there enough time left to handle the problem properly?

A. Kirichenko believes that 96 days are needed to complete the move. However, the experienced rear services say it will take no less than four months. This means that it will be hard to meet even the deadline of December for making the final break with Lithuania.

All we can do is hope that this time everything will be conducted in a balanced, considered manner. Only when we are sure of this will it be possible to assess whose victory the hasty withdrawal of troops represents and whether it is a victory at all.

Abisala on Reciprocal Payment Accord With Russia

OW2409125692 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1112 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuanian Prime Minister Aleksandras Abisala hopes his republic and Russia will formalize reciprocal payments by October 1. In an appearance on national television Aleksandras Abisala said he had held a telephone conversation with Russia's Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar Wednesday [23 September], and his Russian counterpart hoped for the same.

The two heads of government had agreed their republics would be trying to evade problems in reciprocal payments regardless of the Lithuanian moves to introduce a currency unit of its own on October 1.

Abisala on Introduction of Currency

OW2409125992 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1110 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with Baltfax, Lithuanian Prime Minister Aleksandras Abisala said his republic would be introducing its own currency unit after the Latvian fashion, because Latvia had taken the easier, softer and more rational approach to the matter, especially as regards currency operations with neighboring countries. The Prime Minister cited the introduction of the Estonian Krona to show an interim currency unit exerted an easier pressure on the economy.

A week ago, on September 16, the Chairman of the Lithuanian Parliament, the Prime Minister and the Chairman of the Central Bank's Board decided that as of October 1, only interim currency, known as "all-purpose coupons", would be circulating in Lithuania. The ruble would be withdrawn from circulation on the domestic market. Last Wednesday, September 23, the decision was revealed to the national Cabinet.

Until the end of this month ruble bills will be exchanged for the coupons, at the one to one rate. And as of October 1, 10, 50, 100, 200, and 500-ruble worth coupons issued in 1992, and 1, 2, 5, 10, 25, 50, and 100-ruble worth coupons issued in 1991 will be allowed for circulation inside the Lithuanian republic.

As of October 1, 1992, banks will be required to change to coupons, at the one-to-one rate, the ruble deposits of and debts owed by businesses and public organizations, as well as citizens' deposits.

Even before October 1, banks will be supplying businesses and public organizations only with coupons, and it will be in coupons that non-cash transactions will be carried out.

By October 1, Lithuania's government and Central Bank will be required to revise the rules of payment in dealings with the ruble republics and formalize new rules for payment.

Last Wednesday the government and the Central Bank introduced new rules and terms for the withdrawal of ruble bills from circulation on the domestic market.

Besides, the Lithuanian government decided how exactly payments should be squared between Lithuania and the ruble republics before and after October 1.

Aleksandras Abisala told Baltfax that within a week no ruble bills would remain in circulation. The Prime Minister as much as acknowledged his republic had chosen that way of introducing its new currency unit because it appeared technically unprepared for the direct introduction of the Lit.

Without previous discussion with the government, the Central Bank has moved the deadline for the execution of its printing order for the Lit banknotes from January 30, 1993, to December 31, 1992. The order was placed in the United States.

Overview Given of Party Nominations to Sejm

WS2409130492 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN
in English 1454 GMT 22 Sep 92

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 84]

[Text] 22 September 1992—About 1250 candidates will stand for the October 25 elections to the Sejm of the Republic of Lithuania. Two-thirds of them have been nominated in the multi-member constituencies according to the lists of the political parties, public

movements and organizations, one-third in one-mandate constituencies. There are about a dozen independent candidates.

Some parties and movements have formed coalitions and presented common lists of candidates. There are four coalitions, the biggest of them all being the coalition "For Democracy in Lithuania" which unites the right-wing political forces of the Lithuanian Reform Movement Sajudis, the Lithuanian Green Party, the Political Prisoners' Union and the Citizens' Charter and presents the list of 126 candidates headed by Chairman of the Supreme Council, Honorary Chairman of the Sajudis movement Vytautas Landsbergis.

The coalition of the Christian Democratic, the Democratic Party and the Union of Political Prisoners and Exiles has nominated 107 candidates, the coalition of the Independence Party and the Nationalist Union—57 candidates and the coalition of the Christian Democratic Union and the National Youth Association "Jaunoji Lietuva" (the Young Lithuania) has presented a list of 31 candidates headed by the last Chairman of the Supreme Committee of the Liberation of Lithuania Kazys Bobelis.

The political parties and public movements which are going to take part in the elections independently are the following: the Democratic Labour Party (72 candidates), the Social Democratic Party (70 candidates), the Polish Union (25 candidates), the Lithuanian Liberty Union (20 candidates), the Lithuanian Patriots' Union (20 candidates), the Lithuanian Liberal Union (38 candidates), the Moderates' Movement (27 candidates), the National Progress Movement (53 candidates), the Movement for Social Justice (25 candidates), the Centre Movement (37 candidates), the Chernobyl Movement (20 candidates), the Lithuanian Liberty League (21 candidates), East Lithuania Association (22 candidates), and the Lithuanian Consultative Sejm has nominated candidates only in one-mandate constituencies.

These are preliminary data, now being specified by the Supreme Electoral Committee. The official lists of candidates will be announced this week, most probably in the Friday dailies.

Poll Notes Popularity of Sajudis, DLP Leaders

*OW2509134992 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1225 GMT 25 Sep 92*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An opinion poll taken by the Vilnius University sociological service last week showed the Sajudis movement and the Democratic Labor Party [DLP] to be the most popular political organizations in Lithuania, 21.4% of the electorate intending to vote for Sajudis and 14.5% for the DLP in the October 25 election of the Seimas (new parliament).

However, according to the results of a simultaneous poll taken by the sociological studies department of the Lithuanian Radio and TV, the DLP is the most popular organization, with 19.7% of those questioned approving and 27.7% disapproving of its activity. Sajudis is in fifth place, its respective figures being 17% and 38.8%. It comes behind the Center Movement, the Social Democratic Party, and the Temperance Movement.

Both sociological services claim their polls accurately reflect public sentiments. In an interview with IF [INTERFAX], the head of the Vilnius University sociological service, Rasa Alisauskiene, attributed the different results are, to different formulations of basically the same questions and different methods used. [sentence as received]

Opinion polls have shown Vytautas Landsbergis, Chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council and honorary Sajudis president, and Algirdas Brazauskas, leader of the Democratic Labor Party, formerly the First Secretary of the Communist Party of Lithuania and Chairman of the Presidium of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet, to be Lithuania's most popular politicians today: 39% of those questioned by the Vilnius University sociological service said they would vote for Landsbergis and 19.1% for Brazauskas if they stood for President. The respective figures provided by the Lithuanian Radio and TV sociological department are 22.7% and 22.5%. The department's figures for last May were 25.2% and 25.1% respectively.

The law on Sejm elections prohibits further publication of the results of any polls on the popularity of political parties and movements before the elections are over.